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Japan

Tokyo Allows U.S. Rice Display for First Time

OW0104131692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Japan has allowed the United States to exhibit its rice at a food fair to be held in Tokyo from April 14 through 16, government sources said Wednesday.

This is the first time the government has approved the display of foreign rice.

The food agency decided the proposed 120-kilogram rice display at the Great American Food Show will not conflict with its position of maintaining self-sufficiency in food supplies, the sources said.

This is because the U.S. has no intention to sell the rice and only aims at supplying information on production and distribution of U.S.-grown rice, they said.

Under the Staple Food Control Law, import and export of products classified as staple food are subject to government approval.

Under that law, Japanese authorities ordered the removal of samples of U.S.-grown rice displayed at a similar food show last year in Chiba, east of Tokyo, stirring a heated dispute with Washington.

Both sides have discussed the issue at a working level since the end of February, the sources said.

Previously, the U.S. insisted it would not be necessary to seek approval for import in the case where a small quantity of rice is displayed in order to give information, but not offered for sale.

Japan's Food Agency opposed the U.S. claim in fear of a broad interpretation of "giving information."

The U.S. side has counted on any trifle [as received] in the rice issue stirring dispute and putting pressure on Japan to open its market, related sources said.

Since late last year, however, remarks by Japanese Government officials that have hinted at replacing rice import barriers with tariffs has changed the situation.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has reportedly said Japan will not be responsible for the failure of strung-out global trade talks if it is isolated on the issue, a remark interpreted by the U.S. as an assurance of future Japanese liberalization.

DFAB Replies to Governor on Okinawa Land Issue

OW0204082592 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 2 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The Okinawa prefectural government terminated the contract for prefecture-owned land leased to the U.S. military on 31 March, making it necessary to start all over again from the beginning in connection with a new lease contract for 1992. It was disclosed on 1 April, however, that the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] replied in a letter addressed to Governor Ota that, in its opinion, the "contract remains effective." The DFAB has appeared to remain cool toward the notification of contract termination that would have marked the end of an agreement to lease prefecture-owned land for the first time in 10 years, saying that "we would like to gain the understanding and cooperation of the Okinawa prefecture." The fact that the Naha DFAB immediately attempted to create the impression that the contract is still in effect indicates that there is a strong sense of crisis that the stable use of military bases may be shaken.

According to the Naha DFAB public affairs department, the main portion of DFAB director Teramura's reply to the prefecture's notice of contract termination contained a refutation saying "we ask for your understanding on our view that this lease contract remains effective."

That is to say, the national government, as of 1 April 1982, concluded lease contracts on ordinary property, changing from the previous blanket memorandum method of contract. The national government's interpretation is that starting from this point in time, the government's lease rights exist for the next 20 years. There is a wide gap between this view and the view of the prefectural government, which has suspended automatic extension on the premise that contracts require yearly extensions.

The prefectural government, on the other hand, refuses to offer prefecture-owned land for blanket lease, with the intention of carrying through its principles as a reformist administration to demand the national government return the military bases. After detailed investigation of how the land is actually being used, the prefectural government plans to discuss alternative lease methods with the national government. Prefectural government leaders state that the "consequences are that former methods of lease contracts will not be possible." They believe that the issue should be settled by the memorandum method, which was incorporated by the Yara and Taira reformist administrations, born immediately after Okinawan reversion. Instead of agreeing to lease land, this method allows the prefectural government "to collect compensation for military use of land on the basis of the fact of continued use from the past."

However, the prevailing interpretation in the DFAB and opposition party members of the prefectural assembly is that the prefectural government's notice of contract termination does not necessarily signify its total refusal of lease contracts, and that there is still room for possible signing of contracts for the lease of prefecture-owned land. For this reason, it is expected that heated discussions will continue between the prefectural and national governments at the bargaining table over the real meaning of the former's "declaration of intention" concerning the notice of termination of lease contracts.

Government To Urge Libya To Guarantee Safety

OW0104141192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT 01 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry on Thursday will summon Libya's acting ambassador to Japan, Muftah Naili, to demand the speedy processing of exit visas for Japanese citizens in the country as well as secure guarantees of their safety, a top ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said the ministry could not confirm reports that Libya, after the UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling for sanctions against the North African country, is delaying the issuance of exit visas to foreigners.

A member of the Japanese Embassy staff told KYODO's bureau in Cairo on Wednesday that 26 Japanese had applied for exit visas but were still unable to leave Libya.

The Japanese Embassy staff said a hostage crisis similar to that which developed before the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war is unlikely and many of the Japanese wishing to leave are considering taking the land route to Tunisia.

Japan will impose sanctions against Libya to force the surrender of those suspected in the bombings of American and French airliners, the top government spokesman said Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regular news conference that to comply with a UN resolution calling for an air and arms embargo against the country, Japan will reduce staffs in embassies in Tokyo and Tripoli and revise the export trade control ordinance to ban sales of aircraft and aircraft parts to Libya.

The Foreign Ministry said that as of the end of March there were 56 Japanese citizens in Libya, including 34 working for Japanese companies and several others married to foreign nationals in Libya, as well as 15 members of the Japanese Embassy staff.

The ministry has advised 15 company employees who have already obtained exit visas to leave Libya as soon as possible and is trying to help the other nationals obtain exit visas.

Since March 18, when the Foreign Ministry began encouraging Japanese in Libya to leave the country, about 30 have left.

On March 23, the ministry advised travelers not to visit Libya.

Of the 15 UN Security Council members, Japan was one of the 10 that voted for the resolution Tuesday which was jointly sponsored by the United States, Britain, and France.

Supports Security Council Resolution

OW0204061392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Japan urged Libya on Thursday to comply with a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on the country to hand over suspects in bomb attacks on airliners or face sanctions, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Japan also called on the Libyan authorities to allow Japanese and other foreign nationals in Libya to leave the country.

Yoshihisa Ara, director general of the ministry's Consular and Migration Affairs Department, made the representation in a meeting with Muftah Naili, acting secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau, or embassy, in Tokyo.

Ara was quoted as saying Japan expects Libya to comply with the Security Council resolution by April 15, the deadline after which the country would become subject to international sanctions.

Japan and nine other Security Council members voted Tuesday in favor of the resolution, while five members abstained.

The sanctions include a ban on civil aviation flights and sales of arms and aircraft to Libya.

They would be lifted if Libya surrenders six Libyans alleged to be implicated in two airline bombings in 1988 and 1989 and takes steps to "cease all forms of terrorist action and all assistance to terrorist groups."

The six Libyans are sought by France, Britain, and the United States.

The resolution also calls for payment of compensation to the families of the 441 victims from 32 nations, including one from Japan, who died in the bombings.

Ara expressed concern over reports that the Libyan Government was denying exit visas to foreigners and asked that procedures for those wishing to leave the country be expedited.

Naili was quoted as replying that his government maintains a policy of allowing those who want to leave Libya to do so whenever they wish.

He said Libya is already considering measures along the lines of Ara's suggestion that foreign nationals remaining in Libya after the possible cutoff of air links on April 15 be allowed to travel overland to Tunisia or Egypt.

The Foreign Ministry officials said 30 out of the total of 34 Japanese businessmen in Libya have been issued exit visas by that government. They said efforts are being made with respect to the remaining four businessmen.

There are 15 Japanese diplomats and their family members now in Tripoli. There are also four Japanese wives of Libyans in the country and three children of those marriages.

Territorial Issue Tied to Provision of CIS Aid

OW0204080192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Settlement of the Japan-Russia territorial problem is necessary before Japan will provide full economic assistance to the countries of the former Soviet Union, the top government spokesman said Thursday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato reaffirmed Japan's long-held stance in commenting on a multilateral financial aid package for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) announced Wednesday in Bonn and Washington.

Kato said Japan understands the importance of international cooperation and will be active in assisting the CIS.

Japan will have close contacts and will confer with the other Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries to decide the substantial content and timing of the aid package, he said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and U.S. President George Bush unveiled Wednesday the 24 billion dollar new aid program for the CIS by the G-7 and other international bodies.

Kato said at a regular press conference that the G-7 countries understand Japan's position that the territorial dispute with Russia over four islands off Hokkaido has been a hindrance for Japan to extend substantial aid to the former Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters the same day that Japan will participate in the international assistance program for the CIS.

Earlier in the day, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said settlement of the territorial problem between Japan and Russia is necessary before Japan decides to offer full assistance to Moscow.

But the Japanese officials said the government plans to take part in the 6 billion dollar fund on the premise the CIS proceeds with reforms led by the IMF. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters the same day Japan will participate in the international assistance program.

The United States and Germany have said they will make commitments to the aid package.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said it is unavoidable for Japan to participate in the 6 billion dollar fund since the scheme will be carried out by the IMF. He added that Japan's share of the burden could be determined mathematically.

But the Foreign Ministry official stressed that aside from providing assistance to the fund, Japan has not accepted any request from Russia nor from other republics for an increase in aid amount.

He was perplexed that the aid scheme has been proceeded without being linked to Russo-Japanese territorial problem, allowing Germany and the United States to take the initiative in the aid scheme.

A senior Finance Ministry official said specific figures for Japan's commitment in the aid package are yet to be decided, and it will be discussed at an IMF interim committee meeting held at the end of this month in Washington.

The Japanese officials said G-7 nations will be in charge of 11 billion dollars out of 18 billion dollars in aid to cover a deficit in Russia's international balance of payments. The rest will be taken care of by moratorium and with the help of international institutions.

Japan had earlier decided to extend a 600 million dollar loan to the CIS through the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

The 6 billion dollar fund is expected to be pooled to support the ruble in case of a possible plunge, the official said.

For the stabilizing fund, Japan plans to use the general arrangement to borrow which the IMF maintains with its member nations.

Government Officials on Plans To Aid CIS

OW0204115792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1149 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Japan plans to extend several billion dollars out of the 24 billion dollar aid package the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers have agreed in principle to supply to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), government officials said Thursday.

G-7 officials have said they will give the CIS 18 billion dollars worth of economic assistance, as well as setting up a 6 billion dollar fund to help stabilize the ruble, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The Japanese officials said Japan plans to bear several billion dollars out of the 18 billion dollars, and about 1 billion dollars of the ruble fund.

Tokyo would supply the CIS with funds, as necessary, from Japan's foreign exchange reserve.

But the CIS must win membership in the IMF before the agreement can be applied.

The United States has announced it will provide 1.5 billion dollars for the fund, technically requiring that Japan be responsible for 750 million dollars.

Domestic analysts predicted, however, that Tokyo will be in charge of only about 1 billion dollars since it is the only G-7 country with a current account surplus.

The analysts also projected that the CIS would secure IMF membership by about May.

Miyazawa Willing To Cooperate With PRC Reform

OW0104131292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 01 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday expressed willingness to help China promote its reforms and open-door policies, government officials said.

In a meeting with Han Xu, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Miyazawa also welcomed the five-day official visit by Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin to Tokyo next week to mark the 20th anniversary of diplomatic normalization between the two countries.

In response, Hun stressed the importance of private-sector exchanges to promote mutual understanding, saying that exchanges among private citizens and organizations in the two countries go back 40 years.

Referring to Chinese media reports on a visit by Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping to cities in southern China, Hun said Deng's tour has shown that China's reform and open-door policies will remain unchanged and will continue to be promoted.

Business Delegation Leaves for Talks in China

OW0204041792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0253 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Osaka, April 2 KYODO—A mission of the Kansai Economic Federation and other Kansai area business groups left Osaka for Beijing Thursday morning for talks with Chinese Government leaders, federation officials said.

The mission led by Osamu Uno, head of the federation, will stay in China until April 11, the officials said.

The trip is aimed at beefing up ties between China and the Kansai area in western Japan, they said.

Castaways Identified as Chinese Seeking Work

OW0104130792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Yokohama, April 1 KYODO—Eight castaways who washed up [on] the shores of Hachijo Island south of Tokyo late Tuesday night were identified as Chinese apparently seeking work in Japan, Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) authorities said Wednesday.

One of the eight men died after drifting to the shores of the Izu Archipelago island at 10:50 P.M. Tuesday.

None of the eight were carrying passports or any other identification, said the authorities who suspect they planned to enter Japan to work.

According to Hachijo Island police and MSA authorities, the eight were part of group of 58 people, including two women, who left China's Fujian Province on March 25 on board a Taiwanese-registered fishing boat.

At about 9:30 P.M. Tuesday, 21 of the Chinese reportedly boarded three life rafts and headed for Hachijo Island. The boats overturned in waters off the island.

Police said they did not know the whereabouts of the 13 people in the other two life rafts, as well as the 37 who remained behind on the fishing vessel.

Three MSA patrol boats joined aircraft searching the area for the fishing boat and rafts on Tuesday night and Wednesday, but as of Wednesday night the searchers had not been able to come up with anything, police said.

Authorities said they plan to resume the search on Thursday.

The eight castaways reportedly landed on a beach on the east side of the island and went to a nearby hotel to ask for help.

Police searched the area and took seven of the castaways into custody and found the body of the eighth.

Talks Start With ROK on Trade Imbalance

OW0204075592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 2 KYODO—Japan and South Korea started a two-day meeting Thursday in Seoul to correct the bilateral trade imbalance, diplomatic sources said.

It would be the second meeting of the Japan-South Korea Committee on Trade, Industry, and Technical Cooperation.

Among specific action plans on the agenda are establishment of a foundation to promote industrial, scientific, and technological cooperation, expansion of the Japanese market for South Korean-made products, and improvement in the environment to promote the transfer of Japanese investment and technology to South Korea, the sources said.

South Korea's trade deficit with Japan has been rapidly increasing, hitting 4 billion dollars in 1989, 5.9 billion dollars in 1990, and 8.7 billion dollars in 1991.

President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa agreed at a January meeting to draw up action plans by the end of June.

Ministry Approves 3 New Air Routes to Seoul

OW0204102092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—The Transport Ministry will approve three new airline routes between Seoul and three Japanese cities Friday, ministry officials said Thursday.

The new routes include one applied for by Korean Air which would fly between Seoul and Oita on the island of Kyushu. The other two routes have been requested by Asiana Airlines which would connect Seoul and Takamatsu on Shikoku, and Naha on Okinawa, according to the officials.

Flights to Oita will start Monday, while those to Takamatsu will begin April 20, and to Naha will begin April 23, they said.

The new routes are being approved according to the Japan-South Korea aviation agreement reached last June, when Japan agreed to open four routes between Japan and Seoul, they said.

They said South Korea will propose another new route by June.

Parties Agree To Draw Up Political Reform Plan

OW0204122292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1209 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—The secretaries general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and four opposition parties agreed Thursday to draw up a plan for political and electoral reforms by the end of May, officials said.

They also agreed to hold meetings once a week to discuss reforms in four specific areas—political ethics, political funds, election systems and Diet reforms.

In Thursday's meeting at the Diet building, LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki said that it is the last chance to dispel public distrust in politics, adding that the meeting should have tangible results.

The Social Democratic Party, Komeito, the Japanese Communist Party, and the Democratic Socialist Party accepted the LDP proposal to work out an outline for political and electoral reforms around May 28, officials said.

In response to mounting public criticism of the political world in the wake of the Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa scandals, the secretaries general of the ruling and opposition parties held the first session of the interparty political reform consultative council in late March.

Political analysts, however, said it is not clear whether such difficult matters as redressing the number of seats in the House of Representatives would be settled in the current Diet session, which ends on June 21.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has vowed to do his best to correct the disparity in the value of each vote in electoral districts by redistributing the lower house seats and reducing the total number of the seats for the lower chamber.

Noda Reviews Measures To Stimulate Economy

OW0104213292

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese on 29 March broadcasts a roundtable discussion on the theme of "Economic Recession—Economic Policy at a Crucial Point." The roundtable, recorded earlier in the day, features Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA); as well as Akinari Yamashiro, president of NHK Corp.; Toshio Suzuki, director of the Nomura Research Center; and Professor Kimihiro Masamura of Senshu University. NHK commentator Takehiko Mizushiro serves as the moderator in this 60-minute edition of the regularly scheduled weekly program.

The program opens with Mizushiro asking the participants for their views on the current economy. While other participants say the economy is getting worse because of production and inventory adjustments, Noda says that the business community is overreacting to the current slowdown, which he blames mainly on sluggish consumer spending. According to Noda: "The Japanese economy, which was overheating, is shifting from a period of rapid growth to a period of adjustment."

Noda notes that business leaders are anxious about the current situation because there is a wide gap between past growth and current trends, although today's indicators are still stronger than those recorded in past recessions. Noda adds: "Rather than taking a pessimistic attitude, we need to calmly analyze the situation and make efforts to promote the economy."

Following NHK President Yamashiro's review of the causes of today's economic sluggishness, including the government's careless attitude on economic matters, Nomura Research Center Director Suzuki and Professor Masamura give economic forecasts. Noda follows them by saying the Japanese economy still has potential strength. He adds that the market cannot avoid entering an adjustment period, which he views as another step toward further growth. Noda adds that under such circumstances, "if we depend only on cuts in interest rates, there may arise new problems."

Asked about the major points of the government's emergency economic measures that will be announced on 31 March, Noda says the measures are designed to encourage utilities to increase capital investments, and that they are also designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises.

Mizushiro asks for the participants' views on the government's monetary policy. The participants focus on the issue

of lowering the official discount rate, which is under jurisdiction of the Bank of Japan (BOJ). Noda states that, instead of feeling pressured by politicians to lower the discount rate, "I think BOJ Governor Mieno should act with more confidence and responsibility." Noda continues: "Because Governor Mieno shares common views with us on the current economic situation, I think we can leave the issue of the discount rate to him."

From here, NHK President Yamashiro turns the discussion to a review of government measures to help small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as those designed to increase housing starts. He questions Noda about steps to extend low-interest loans to enterprises and to reduce housing loans.

Noda responds: "As I said earlier, in connection with last year's supplementary budget and fiscal investment and loans, we made record-high additions to these budgets. Also, we recently made further additions to the fiscal 1991 budget. As for fiscal 1992, we are planning to positively make use of investments and loans. In terms of housing loans, in particular, limits on loans have been raised drastically, and reductions in interest rates have been made. A system has been established to provide loans, and most requests for loans will be accepted." Noda continues by appealing to financial institutions to provide as many loans as possible.

Moderator Mizushiro raises the issue of a possible recurrence of the "bubble economy" following additional cuts in the discount rate. Following calls from Suzuki and Yamashiro for the immediate front-loading of public works projects, Noda points out that there is still a shortage of labor, despite the fact that monetary policy has been eased. He expresses concern that the front-loading of public works projects may worsen the labor shortage problem. Noda also stresses the role the government's monetary policy plays in coping with an aging society. He adds: "It is necessary for us to work out economic measures while setting goals in terms of long-term and mid-term financial policy.

Participants go on to discuss the stock market, focusing on various measures to stimulate it. Asked for an economic forecast, EPA Director General Noda says: "As for future economic issues, we need to work out and adopt a long- and mid-term policy for the economic measures we are currently planning. Therefore, it is important for us to work out specific economic measures after we have established a course to go by."

The roundtable concludes with Mizushiro asking Noda when he expects the economy to recover. Noda responds: "In brief, I would just say that the economy will recover some time around this summer or fall."

Mieno Comments on Official Interest Rate Cut

OW0104134292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Interview with Bank of Japan Governor Mieno by NHK newscaster Sonoda on 1 April; from "NHK News 21" program—recorded]

[Text] We asked for Bank of Japan Governor Mieno's views concerning the recent official rate reduction. Please listen to his views:

[Begin Mieno recording] Since July last year only banking policies have been used as a means of economic readjustment. In other words, it has been a one-winged flight. This time, however, financial policies are being put to use as well. Now shall we call it a two-winged flight or two-wheeled bicycle? There is much greater meaning, therefore, I believe. I expect there will be good results therefrom.

Already the level of interest rates has come down considerably. The official rate reduction this time is implemented on top of that. Hence, I think the interest rates will come down further. But I do not think another bubble economy will develop from it immediately. This is because there are comprehensive government measures in force to deal with it, including the Land Tax. The banking institutions are also cautious in extending credits. But if the low rates continue for a long time, there will arise possibilities for so many things to happen. As such, I think we need to be careful in watching future developments. [end recording]

Securities Officials Urged To Revive Market

OW0204114892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa called on two top securities industry officials Thursday to make further efforts to revive the anemic stock market.

He told Tokyo Stock Exchange President Minoru Nagaoka and Japan Securities Dealers Association Chairman Shogo Watanabe the industry needs to restore investor confidence, which has been lost through a series of market scandals starting last summer, exchange officials said.

Stressing that the stock market is vital to the free-market system in the meeting at his official residence, the prime minister also reportedly said the market should be investor-oriented, urging the securities industry to call on corporations to raise their dividend payments to shareholders.

Japan's dividend payout ratio is currently much lower than those of the United States and Europe.

Miyazawa noted that the government announced Tuesday a package of emergency economic measures

aimed at boosting Japan's slumping economy, but no concrete measures were revealed from the meeting.

"The meeting itself has a significant meaning," Nagaoka said. "The nation's prime minister met with two top representatives of the securities industry."

Watanabe said," I was greatly encouraged, as the prime minister told us to maintain self-confidence and responsibility for stimulating the market."

According to the exchange president, Miyazawa said that as long as the market lacks vigor, it is difficult for companies to raise funds in the market, resulting in a further slump in the Japanese economy.

Nagaoka and Watanabe said they will make every effort to revive the market.

The benchmark Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues declined Wednesday below the psychological barrier of 19,000 for the first time in five years. It finished Thursday's session at 18,286.03, the lowest since its December 2, 1986 close of 18,190.97.

A top Finance Ministry official said the government should not intervene in the stock market seeking an instant boost in prices.

The government will, however, continue efforts to bolster the market by asking companies to increase their dividend payout ratios and other measures, the official said.

Economic Slowdown Makes Firms 'More Cautious'

OW0204085292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—The nation's ongoing economic slowdown has apparently changed corporate behavior and forced companies to be more cautious in investing in plant and equipment, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said in a survey released Thursday.

The companies polled expect their capital spending to increase by an average 4.6 percent per year in the next three years, less than half the annual average growth rate of 10.9 percent for the past three years, the survey said.

An EPA official noted many companies seem to have become more careful about capital spending, even for rationalization, labor saving, and research and development, which used to be thought less sensitive to interest rate movements.

The survey on past and future corporate activities, conducted in January, covered 1,861 companies listed on stock exchanges, excluding financial and insurance firms. Out of the total, 1,314 companies, or 70.6 percent, responded to the questionnaire.

Regarding fund-raising for investment in plants and equipment, the survey showed that loans from domestic financial institutions will increase sharply in the next three years, while fund-raising from stock markets at home and abroad will drop.

Nearly 50 percent of the firms replied they could afford their outlays on capital spending during the past three years, but likewise about half the companies said they would have difficulty raising funds for investment over the next three years.

Looking ahead, the companies expect the Japanese economy to continue being dull, predicting an average 3.1 percent annual growth in fiscal 1992, which started Wednesday, against a 3.5 percent projection by the government.

From the middle-term point of view, however, they expect stable economic growth, predicting an average 3.4 percent annual growth in the next three years and 3.5 percent growth in five years.

Meanwhile, the number of companies intending to reduce their inventories in the next three years is increasing, compared with the past three years, the survey showed.

As for employment, many companies, especially non-manufacturers, still have a strong need for new employees, although they expect difficulties in recruiting to continue, it said.

Pessimism About Business Dominates Small Firms

OW0204085192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Small and medium-sized Japanese companies were pessimistic about business conditions in March for the eighth month in a row and even more downbeat about coming months, the government-financed Small Business Finance Corp. reported Thursday.

Of the 623 companies which responded to a survey conducted in mid-March, the percentage of the companies reporting a month-to-month increase in sales minus that of those reporting a decrease, stood at a seasonally adjusted minus 16.7.

The leading index of business sentiment, based on the percentage of companies forecasting increased sales three months ahead minus that of those anticipating lower sales was minus 17.8.

The results show small-business sentiment for the coming months is worse than for the present, the corporation said.

The business sentiment index was minus 47.6 among steel companies, minus 11.6 among general machinery makers, minus 14.0 among electric equipment manufacturers, and minus 6.3 among automobile parts makers.

Nuclear-Powered Ship Eyed as Research Vessel

OW0204043392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT 02 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—The Science and Technology Agency has drawn up a basic plan to convert Japan's only nuclear-powered ship, the Mutsu, into an oceanographic observation vessel equipped with an unmanned helicopter and an unmanned submersible, agency officials said Thursday.

The 8,242-ton Mutsu ended its life as a nuclear-powered ship in January. Its reactor is scheduled to be removed in 1995, by which time it is expected to have completely cooled down.

The refitting is expected to be completed in the late 1990s.

The Mutsu was launched in 1969, but was plagued with problems throughout its history. After its reactor leaked radioactivity in September 1974, the ship was shut down for repairs until its restart in March 1990.

The government has spent more than 100 billion yen on development and research of the nuclear-powered ship project since 1963. The Mutsu underwent four sea trials in 1991, traveling to locations off Hawaii and the Fiji Islands.

The agency drew up an outline of the plan jointly with the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, which administers the Mutsu, and the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center, the officials said.

One of the special characteristics of the remodeled Mutsu will be the unmanned submersible currently being developed by the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center, they said.

The submersible, called "Dolphin 10k" will have the capability to navigate underwater at a world-record depth of 11,000 meters, the officials said.

Another main feature will be the unmanned helicopter, which will be used for monitoring and sending graphical data on drifting ice in the Antarctic and Arctic Circles, they added.

The officials said the refitted Mutsu will be one of the world's largest oceanographic observation vessels and will have the latest observation equipment.

Most of the existing large-scale ocean observation ships of the industrialized nations are in the 3,000-ton to 4,000-ton class, they added.

The agency is considering using the Mutsu for continuous observations in the Pacific near the equator to probe the "El Nino" phenomenon—a sporadic extraordinary increase of sea surface temperature that occurs every few years.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Says Nuclear Inspections Accepted

OW0204005792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—North Korean President Kim Il-song has confirmed that his country will accept inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) without delay, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

"The issue will be settled smoothly according to fixed procedures," Kim told a group of ASAHI SHIMBUN reporters in Pyongyang on Tuesday.

North Korea signed a nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA in late January which paves the way for allowing IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities. North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly is expected to ratify the accord when its session opens on April 8.

"Only the matter of formalities remains," in connection with the nuclear inspections, the daily quoted Kim as telling the reporters.

As for proposed mutual nuclear inspections between South and North Korea now under negotiations, Kim said, "I think we can handle the matter very well."

In discussing the stalled talks to normalize relations with Japan, Kim said both Japan and North Korea "lack common recognition and understanding on the significance of improving bilateral relations and related fundamental issues," the ASAHI reported.

Kim called on Japan to make a political decision needed to revive the talks and said North Korea had already made a definite decision about the issue before it proposed the normalization talks.

The prospect for the first Korean summit talks with South Korean President No Tae-u would be brighter if the two Koreas endeavor to implement a nuclear-free declaration and nonaggression pact put into effect on February 19, Kim was quoted as saying.

Kim also showed a strong desire to improve North Korea-U.S. relations and urged the U.S. to change its Korean policy, the daily reported.

Second Nuclear Committee Meeting Detailed

SK0104145692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1303 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] The second meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee took place today in the South side's area of Panmunjom. From our side, Choe U-chin, chairman of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, (Pak Kwang-won), vice chairman of the committee, and five members attended the meeting; and the chairman, vice chairman, and five members

from the South side also attended the meeting. The meeting took place behind closed doors.

After the meeting, Choe U-chin, our side's chairman, gave a news conference and explained the discussions at the meeting.

According to him, our side explained in detail common and fundamental differences between the two sides' views and said that a basic reason for these differences is that the South side did not present a comprehensive draft agreement that contains ways to implement each clause of the joint declaration and openly revealed that it had no will to implement the joint declaration in the first place. Citing facts, our side also said that another reason for this is that the South side, citing only a clause on inspection in the joint denuclearization declaration, to fulfill its insidious objective intends to turn the Joint Nuclear Control Committee into a pure inspection organization.

Our side also said: The South side avoided adopting the rules of inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases and an agreement to implement the joint denuclearization declaration and quietly advanced a proposal for mutual inspection of an equal number and a special inspection of ordinary military bases, excluding nuclear bases. This is a trick to evade the inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases, fearful of our side's demand for an overall nuclear inspection.

Our side pointed out that the South side's outcry over nuclear development and so on was a petty trick to conceal the actual threat of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea by misleading public opinion at home and abroad and that its refusal of the North's proposal for the North and South to jointly cope with the external nuclear threat and obtain an international guarantee on the nuclear-free status on the Korean peninsula is a maneuver to keep the U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea under U.S. pressure and to deliberately aggravate North-South relations, which are developing favorably, thus frustrating the implementation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration.

Our side asked the South side to assume a position to jointly and independently resolve all the issues concerning the realization of denuclearization with a firm will to implement the joint denuclearization declaration. Our side also asked the South side to be sincere about the documents of agreement effectuated by the two sides. Also, our side proposed starting discussions on the issue of adopting an agreement to implement the joint declaration and the rules of inspection to verify denuclearization.

Meanwhile, even though the South side said during its speech that the two sides must avoid unnecessary arguments to narrow mutual differences, it rather found fault with us, built an artificial obstacle to the meeting, and resorted to delaying tactics to hinder progress in the talks. The South side said that proposing the adoption of an agreement for denuclearization is unjust and that talking about the U.S. nuclear weapons, which do not exist in South Korea, is sophistry. It also proposed that mutual inspection be conducted first and that an auxiliary agreement be discussed and adopted later. It also opposed overall inspection, insisted on inspection of an equal number based on the principle of reciprocity, and even openly opposed the turning of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

In connection with the South side's remarks, our side strongly called the South side to task for the fact that it came to the talks empty-handed today, as well, and found fault with our proposals even though it had said in the first meeting that, considering our principled stand, it would express its views in this meeting after examining the draft agreement to implement the joint declaration and the agreement's (?appendix), the draft rules of inspection to verify denuclearization.

Our side said: While babbling about our nuclear development, the South side was talking about the introduction of nuclear weapons. This is a groundless remark the likes of which we have never heard. We cannot but consider this to be grave. We asked whether the South side intended to implement the joint declaration and where it was trying to lead the nuclear talks.

Our side said: Our side had declared on many occasions that we have no capability or need to develop nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the South side pretended that it does not know this and made preposterous remarks again. Judging from this, it is clear that the South side is playing into someone else's hand.

Our side also warned the South side that it should not join in the U.S. nuclear policy. Our side also said: The South side came to the meeting with facts that do not exist after fabricating them, as the United States asked it to do. This is designed to find a new excuse for the perpetual occupation of South Korea by the U.S. forces and to build an artificial obstacle to the implementation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration.

The South side asserted that for the North and the South to jointly deal with foreign countries' nuclear threat is not specified in the agreement. Regarding this, our side asked the South side to see clearly the contents of the agreement effectuated by the two sides and asked whether it will live under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

At today's meeting, our side proposed that the two sides agree today on the title, at least, of the documents that they should adopt. However, the South side avoided answering the question coherently. Thus, no agreement was reached today.

The two sides' positions expressed today show that our side is making sincere efforts to basically remove the danger of nuclear war by completely realizing denuclearization in our country, promote conditions and a climate favorable for the country's peace and peaceful reunification, and contribute to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world and that the South side is maneuvering to avoid losing face in implementing the joint denuclearization declaration pledged solemnly to

people at home and abroad and to achieve insidious impure strategic goals through inspection.

It was agreed to hold the third meeting on 21 April.

Cooperation, Exchange Committee Meeting Detailed

SK0204110092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Panmunjom April 2 (KCNA)—The second contact of members of the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held behind closed doors at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom today.

After the contact, member of the North side Son Chong-chol gave a news briefing. He said that at the first contact the sides failed to enter into the readjustment and arrangement of the text of the annexed agreement because the South side, in violation of the North-South agreement, set the preconditions that the principle of working out the annexed agreement should be discussed first and the number of the contacts be discussed and fixed and then the humanitarian problems be discussed before anything else, and because the South side, lacking sincerity, came out without a draft amendment and insisted that only its unreasonable proposal should be discussed, he said, and added:

Our side suggested that the questions be discussed in order of the points of agreement in conformity with the spirit and contents of the North-South agreement.

The South side, however, proposed to discuss humanitarian problems first, irrespective of the order of the points of the agreement and then debate on the issues of traffic, communications, social affairs, exchange and cooperation.

The speeches of both sides proved that the stand of the North side was to bring the contact between members to a conclusion in keeping with the desire of the nation and the spirit of the North-South agreement, whereas that of the South side was a delaying tactic to shelve the debate on the basic matters by deliberately creating complications in the discussion of the matters in total disregard of the North-South agreement.

Our side strongly accused the South side of its unjustifiable stance and stand toward the meeting and asked whether it would be faithful to the North-South agreement and discuss matters in the order of the points of the agreement, or not.

Pressed by the reasonable and logical arguments of our side, the South side finally agreed to discuss matters in the order of the points without any preconditions.

Thus, the members entered into the discussion of the points at today's contact. It was agreed upon to hold the next contact on April 10.

Kim Il-song Receives Billy Graham 2 Apr

SK0204110792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received visiting U.S. religious leader Rev. Billy Graham and his party today.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister; Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation; Chang Chae-chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Chondoists Assocciation; and Ko Ki-chun, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation.

The U.S. religious leader conveyed to President Kim Il-song a verbal message of U.S. President George Bush.

President Kim Il-song conversed with guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He was presented with a gift by the U.S. religious leader.

He arranged a luncheon for the guests.

Taehongdan Farm Reportedly Increases Grain Yield

SK0104155492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The Taehongdan County integrated farm, located in Paektu 3,000-ri plain of Yanggang Province, northern part of Korea, brought highlands of more than 1,000 hectares under cultivation in recent years.

This brings the integrated farm's arable land to 10,000 hectares.

The farm increased grain yield last year 1.5 times over that of the previous year, or 8 times over that of the first year when it was founded.

Its livestock breeding has also developed to produce thousands of tons of meat a year.

The farm has some 1,000 modern farming machines such as tractors, lorries, sowing machines and harvesters and each farmer is tending a field of 30 hectares.

Kim Hyong-kwon, Samjiyon, Paekam, Samsu other countries in the province, too, have turned vast areas of highland into tilled lands.

10,000 hectares of highland were reclaimed into arable lands only in a few years in Paekam district.

There established the October 15 integrated farm which has 10 branches.

As a result, 22,000 or more hectares of highland have been reclaimed into tilled land in Yanggang Province.

Today the northern tableland has been turned into a solid grain production base and a meat production base, offering a prospect for further improvement of people's living there.

Political Method Urged in Economic Management

Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean No 11, Nov 91 pp 62-67

Article by So Chae-yong: "Political Method Is Most Important Method in Socialist Economic Management Revealed by Our Party"

[Text] Correctly establishing an economic management method in compliance with the essential character of a relevant social system is one of the important deciding factors for success in economic management. Moreover, only when the economic management method is correctly established and precisely implemented in a socialist society where the economy develops under centralized and planned guidance by the state, can one consolidate and develop the socialist economic system and vigorously accelerate the economic construction.

The economic management method is a means to mobilize people by applying various economic management means and techniques. Differences would occur in its character, purpose, and content according to the social system. The most remarkable difference distinguishing the socialist economic management method and the capitalist economic management method is that a political method is applied to socialist economic management. The political method applied to economic management is a unique method seen only in the socialist society.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, has pointed out:

The political method, which was newly expounded by our party, is the most important method for socialist economic management.

The political method is, in a word, a method of organizing and mobilizing the producer masses in fulfilling the economic tasks by inspiring their revolutionary zeal and creative spirit.

The social condition for applying the political method in economic management is that the working popular masses become the masters of the state sovereignty and production means. If state sovereignty guarantees an independent political life for working popular masses and if production means are used in accordance with the demands and interests of all members of the society, the working masses will have an attitude and position worthy of masters in production and management and will actively struggle to fulfill their responsibility and role as masters.

Therefore, the political method, which organizes and mobilizes the working popular masses to fulfill economic tasks by inspiring their revolutionary zeal and creative activeness, will be applied in socialist economic management.

The political method enables one to most thoroughly realize the collectivist principle in socialist economic management.

The socialist economic management method is, in essence, a collectivist method. Thus, how thoroughly the collectivist principle is applied in economic management serves as an important factor defining the revolutionary nature of the relevant economic management method. The political method is to encourage the workers to carry out their work with lofty political awareness by demonstrating their revolutionary zeal and creative activeness. Therefore, this method guarantees the interest of organizations and enterprises better than that of individuals and the interest of the state and society better than that of organizations and enterprises. It encourages people to work revolutionarily by helping and leading each other under the communist slogan, "One for all, all for one!" No other economic management method can better embody the collectivist principle than the political method. The economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method can thoroughly embody the collectivist principle only when they are precisely combined with the political method. Without political work, one cannot think of the collectivist management method. Therefore, the touchstone in deciding whether the relevant economic management method is a socialist economic management method or a capitalist one is whether the political method is applied or not.

The most important content of the political method is giving definite priority to the political work over any other work.

Giving priority to political work in economic management is the method for vigorously mobilizing the masses in fulfilling economic tasks by inspiring them ideologically and by assuming ideology as a basis.

By regarding the indoctrination of the people as a priority work, we should make the producer masses keenly realize the purpose, significance, and implementation method of economic tasks which are raised whenever these economic tasks are organized. This is an important demand. By vigorously waging political propaganda and economic agitation in various forms and methods to inspire people, we should make all workers correctly realize the purpose, significance, and implementation method of economic tasks facing their units. By doing so, we can make them successfully carry out economic tasks with the awareness that they are the masters of production and management, thus giving full play to revolutionary zeal and initiative.

At the same time, it is important to carry out economic tasks based on the work of inspiring the workers' ideology and awareness in the entire course of economic management. Only when priority is given to political work in the entire course of implementing economic tasks, can we correctly

materialize economic technological method and administrative and organizational method, and thus successfully carry out the economic tasks.

Another important part of the political method is that economic guidance functionaries deeply mingle with the producer masses to teach and help them.

It is one of the powerful methods of economic guidance functionaries in successfully implementing economic tasks by inspiring the producers to actively teach and help the producers by mingling with them. What is important for economic guidance functionaries in teaching and helping the producer masses by going down to them is for the economic guidance functionaries to always mingle with producers and cooperate with them and to timely and responsibly solve problems raised in production. The purpose of managing the economy in a political manner is to successfully implement economic tasks. Therefore, economic guidance functionaries should make it part of life and habit to mingle with producer masses, going down to the lower echelon, and should discover the implementation method for economic tasks by depending on the masses' wisdom and should solve the problems raised in production in a timely manner. By so doing, they can further increase the masses' zeal and effect constant upsurges in production.

Another important content of the political method is to resolve all problems raised in economic management by vigorously waging a mass movement and through the strength of groups.

Vigorously waging a mass movement under the party's leadership is a vigorous method for giving full play to the collectivist spirit among the producer masses and for turning economic management into the work of the masses themselves.

Only when economic organizations and enterprises widely wage various mass movements under the collective guidance of a party committee, can they make the producer masses actively participate in economic management and successfully resolve economic tasks through the workers' collective strength. Those who are best aware of problems raised in production, technology, and management are the very producer masses. Therefore, if we actively inspire people to fulfill economic tasks by vigorously waging a mass movement, there would be nothing that we could not accomplish.

Thus, it is an important guarantee for successfully resolving the problems raised in socialist economic management to constantly deepen the mass movement in accordance with the progress of socialist construction. All outposts and units in socialist construction should establish the correct goals for the mass movement and substantively realize them so that collective innovations are effected among the workers and mass heroism is demonstrated.

With its unique content, the political method has the most important position in socialist economic management methods.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, has pointed out:

Our party gives first priority to the political method in socialist economic management and maintains the principle of correctly combining the political method with the economic technological method and administrative organizational method.

We should adhere to the political method as the prime object in socialist economic management.

Among the political method, the technological economic method, and the administrative and organizational method which are fundamental methods in socialist economic management, regarding the political method as the most important method and giving priority to it are the most important principles which we have to adhere to in economic management.

It is imperative to firmly grasp the political method, regarding it as the most important method in socialist economic management because it is the method, above all others, which enhances the working people's revolutionary zeal, a fundamental driving force for socialist economic development.

The driving force which develops the socialist economy consists of the people's revolutionary zeal, socialist competition, and material incentive. Among these, the most important is the working people's lofty revolutionary zeal. Since ideological consciousness controls all activities of the people, its intensity defines the character and objective of economic activity and decides the success of economic activity. The intensity of ideological consciousness also enables the socialist working people, who are the nation's and society's master, to display their high revolutionary zeal and creative spirit and to struggle vigorously to carry out economic tasks with the awareness of being the master. The working people's lofty revolutionary zeal is the source of the driving force which actively promotes economic activity.

The working people's lofty revolutionary zeal firmly guarantees a strengthened interaction of other factors which inspire socialist economic development. The socialist competition also serves as a vigorous means which can inspire popular heroism and collective innovation only when the working people actively participate in the socialist competition by displaying revolutionary zeal and creative activeness. In economic management, material incentives can correctly inspire production development only on the basis of upgrading ideological awareness. Socialist proprietorship of production means, which is a basic element of the socialist economic system, can be further consolidated and developed and its superiority can be brought to full swing only when the working people's ideological awareness is high.

More correctly, when the political method which inspires the people's revolutionary zeal is applied, more reasonable production factors can be utilized and more aggressive economic construction can be accelerated.

Production requires people's participation along with material means including machinery facilities, raw materials, and materials. Machinery which changes the face of nature plays an important role in production development. Raw materials and materials also carry a great significance in developing production. The further science and technology develop, the more significant material is in production development. However, lofty ideological consciencousness and people with a certain level of skill play a decisive role in production development. Social production develops when the people's independent demand and labor capability increase and when production tools [saengsan toku] are endlessly improved. No matter how great material technological is, it is made and handled by man. If the socialist working people, who are the masters of country and society, work with a lofty political awareness and a position worthy of masters, it will bring a corresponding improvement of technological material and give full play to its power. Thus, it will make production develop at a rapid speed. The more the socialist economic management system and method is improved, the greater power the working people's ideological consciousness will display.

Valuing the political method as the most important method and always giving priority to it are very significant because the method will help other methods of economic management to be applied precisely and, as result, make them prove their worth.

Management and operation of the socialist economy require the application of various methods and techniques including the economic technological method and administrative and organizational method.

Methods and techniques applied in socialist economic management have certain characteristics which are different from one another. The economic technological method can be called a method of carrying out scientific and technological work in a scientific and reasonable manner to realize scientific and technological demands of objective economic laws and of production in economic management. The administrative and organizational method can be called a method of organizing and ensuring independent and creative economic activities of the popular masses by using administrative means and technique.

The economic technological method enables one to organize all business activities in a unified and planned manner and to scientifically and reasonably carry out all economic management Including production organization, technological management, guarantee of materials, labor organization, disposal of products and financial management. Unlike this method, the administrative and organizational method enables all functionaries to maintain rules and order in economic management by encouraging them to obligatorily abide by laws, regulations, and administrative decisions and directives of the state.

How to prove the worth of these methods in managing and operating the socialist economy is significantly linked to how to inspire the producer masses who are directly in charge of production, technology, and management. Only when the producer masses give full play to their voluntary zeal and creative activeness, can all economic management methods, including the economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method, be correctly applied and prove their substantive worth. When the people's political awareness is high, the planned work, production organization, technological management, guaranteeing materials, and financial management can be improved, systems and order can be better observed in economic management and thus economic technological method and administrative and organizational method can be precisely applied.

The stance of regarding the political method as the most important method in socialist economic management is also linked to the role of political method to be played in consolidating and developing the socialist economic system.

The essential superiority and character of the socialist economic system lie in that the workers work like masters with lofty political awareness and unite and cooperate with each other in economic activities. However, superiority of the socialist economic system is not displayed by its own accord. It is to be displayed by the voluntary and conscious activities of workers and by a correct economic management system and method which regulates the workers' activities. The economic management method, which enables each socialist worker to work with an awareness of being the master of the nation and society and to unite and cooperate with each other, is the political method.

The political method always gives priority to political work in economic management. Therefore, this method encourages people to work with the awareness of being the masters and functionaries to teach and always help the producer masses and to resolve problems in economic management with the strength of groups by waging a mass movement. Thus, the socialist economic system is to be consolidated and developed and its superiority is to be highly displayed to precisely embody the political method.

Giving first consideration to the political method in socialist economic management does not mean that one may neglect the economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method.

From the outset, in socialist economic management, the political method, the economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method were closely linked and must be realized in a unified manner. Only when one gives the first consideration to the political method in socialist economic management, can

one successfully achieve the economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method by precisely inspiring the people's ideology. On the other hand, only when the political method is achieved in close relationship to the economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method, can it fulfill its mission as a socialist economic management method and can it become a powerful means for substantively resolving problems in economic management. The political method, when it is not combined with the economic technological method and the administrative and organizational method, cannot contribute to resolving problems in economic management.

If one fails to realize the importance of the political method in socialist economic management and only gives second priority to this method, grave consequences will arise in socialist economic construction.

Unless one gives first consideration to the political method, one will inevitably advance along the road of taking the method of applying the material incentive as an absolute method. Since the socialist society has a transitional nature [kwadojok songkyok], the material incentive cannot be eliminated from economic management. However, the problem is how to make the use of material incentive. In using this incentive, one may effectively implement the collectivist principle or one may promote the idea of individual egoism. If people only adhere to the method of giving material incentives while discarding or neglecting the political method, they will fall into the idea of individual egoism and seek only their own individual interest instead of the interests of the state, society and groups. As a result, production and circulation will naturally be adjusted only by the rule of value [kachi popchik]. This shows that if one pays attention only to the method of giving material incentive, overall economic management will be reduced to that of capitalism.

Unless one gives first consideration to the political method in socialist economic management, the people's role in developing production will become worthless and one will regard only material and technological conditions as absolute. Of course, the material and technological conditions play an important role in socialist economic construction. Socialism and communism cannot be built without a powerful material and technological foundation and without lofty productivity. However, more important is to reform the people's ideas and awareness. Unless one reforms the people's ideas and awareness, one cannot build a powerful material and technological foundation and even if such a foundation is built, it cannot make the revolution progress nor can it actively accelerate socialist construction. If people are dominated by the capitalist idea, although material and technological foundations of a society are firm, such society is not a socialist society and is doomed to advance toward capitalism. Socialism and political methods are so closely linked with each other that they cannot be separated.

Under the socialist system, only when the political method is applied in economic management, can the people's awareness be reformed and the socialist economic system be consolidated and its material and technological foundation be solidified.

Our party regards the political method as the most important method in socialist economic management, and consistently maintained the principle of giving the first consideration to this method, thus effecting a constant upsurge in economic construction.

Our party constantly strengthened party-level guidance over all guiding functionaries so that they firmly give priority to political work in economic management according to the demand of the Taean work system. Only when it is combined with a revolutionary economic management system, can the political method be correctly embodied. As shown in historic experiences in socialist economic construction, the only economic management system which can correctly embody the political method is the Taean work system.

The Taean work system is a work system of giving priority to political work in economic management and demands that one resolve all problems in economic management in a political manner. What is important in giving priority to political work according to the demand of the Taean work system is to correctly formulate the contents and methods of political and ideological indoctrination work and is to constantly deepen them in compliance with the progress in the revolution and construction.

Our party attached importance to education in the chuche idea so that the people will be fostered as chuche-type communists and communist revolutionaries with a firm revolutionary outlook on the leader. By vigorously waging ideological indoctrination work, our party also inspired all workers to fulfill the responsibility and role by assuming the attitude and awareness of being the masters of the revolution.

By firmly giving priority to political work in economic management according to the demand of Taean work system, our party has been able to unite the people more firmly without the slightest wavering even under conditions in which difficult revolutionary tasks were raised one after another and the imperialists' antisocialist maneuvers were viciously perpetrated. Thus, our party vigorously accelerated socialist construction with the united strength of the masses.

In particular, waging a mass movement, our party successfully resolved various difficult and complicated problems raised in production and management.

In a socialist society, along with the ideological and indoctrination work, the working masses' revolutionary enthusiasm and creative positiveness are highly manifested through the mass movement.

At every period and stage of the socialist building, our party put forth revolutionary slogans that grasps the hearts of the masses and widely held innovative mass movements to implement it. By doing so, endless revolutionary upsurges were brought about in economic construction.

During the period of fortifying the basis of socialism after the war, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song overcame many barriers that were laid before us, and to bring about a great revolutionary upsurge in socialist building, he personally went into the working class of Kangson and kindled the great torch of the Chollima movement, and ordered all sectors of the people's economy to vigorously carry out the Chollima work team movement. By vigorously carrying out various forms of mass movements including the Chollima movement, the revolutionary spirit of continuous forward movement and continuing innovation was displayed vigorously and endless revolutionary upsurges were brought about in our country.

In accordance with the demand of the new stage of revolutionary development to model the whole society after the chuche idea, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated the movement to win the red flag of three revolutions and vigorously led this movement. Therefore, the historical task of remolding man, carrying out social reform and nature remaking in our country is being realized successfully.

The most important method in the practical experience of our country's socialist economic management is viewed as the political method. Only when this is firmly adhered to can it prove that the socialist economic management endlessly consolidates and develops the socialist economic system, rapidly develops production, and actively contributes to successfully resolving all economic issues.

Today we are faced with the important task of embodying the political method well to further improve and complete socialist economic management, which is in conformity with the intrinsic nature of the socialist system.

What must be implemented first in enhancement of the level of the economic guiding functionaries.

Applying the political method is difficult because political work is being carried out by workers in various sectors and units of the people's economy, all of which have different levels, capabilities, and characteristics. If the political method is to be embodied in accordance with the concrete condition and environment, and the degree of preparedness and characteristics of its targets, the political and theoretical level and practical technical level of the guiding functionaries must be enhanced.

Establishing a detailed methodology in economic management is an important guarantee in correctly embodying the political method. Since many people with different duties and degrees of preparedness are participating in economic management, the people's economic activity must be organized actively in accordance with the situation of the diverse and complicated circumstances. Therefore, there must be a concrete methodology to embody the political method so that the political work can touch their hearts and substantially help the people in the lower echelons.

Firmly establishing a collective guidance system of the party committee in its economic activities is a basic way to correctly embody the political method. If a work system to guide economic work is established in a political and policy-oriented way, the political method is embodied all the better. The collective guiding system of the party committee must be correctly established so that the political work can be carried out first of all, and an orderly work method in which the upper echelon helps the lower echelon can be carried out vigorously. The political method must be correctly embodied according to the collective guidance of the party committee so that the party's leadership and mass line can be united, can highly manifest the workers' revolutionary enthusiasm and creative positiveness, and can correctly implement the economic management in accordance with the intrinsic nature of the socialist system.

In socialist economic management, all economic guiding functionaries must be aware of the significance and importance of the political method and adhere to it by putting this in the forefront so that endless upsurges can be achieved in socialist economic construction.

South Korea

Exchange Subcommittee Reaches Accord on Trade

SK0204085892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0833 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea agreed in principle Thursday to transact goods and materials on open account and will meet again April 10 for further discussions on exchanges and cooperation, South Korean officials said.

In the second meeting of the Exchange and Cooperation Subcommittee of the inter-Korean high-level talks, the two sides decided to talk about humanitarian subjects such as reunions of families separated in the two halves of the Korean peninsula, socio-cultural issues and cooperation in the travel and telecommunication fields in the next meeting.

South Korea tabled revisions to three auxiliary agreements, on economy, socio-cultural matters, and travel and telecommunications to North Korea, and the North said it would review the revisions and make its position known at the third contact.

South Korea also suggested that a humanitarian issues committee be set up separately from the exchange and cooperation subcommittee to deal with matters concerning exchanges and reunions of members of separated families.

If North Korea really wanted to solve the humanitarian issues, the concerned authorities on the two sides could reach a basic agreement first and then hand over the issues to each other's Red Cross societies as the North had called for, the South said.

Japanese Group's Planned DPRK Visit Berated

SK0204032692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Apr 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Incongruous Birthday Mission"]

[Text] Japan's Social Democratic Party [SDP] is said to be planning to send a 130-odd-member mission, perhaps no match to any of similar groups in number, to Pyongyang to congratulate North Korean leader Kim Il-song on his 80th birthday April 15. In fact, few parallels could be found elsewhere of such a personality cult as in North Korea, where the birthdays of the head of state and his son are celebrated gorgeously as national holidays. Moreover, power is being transferred from Kim to his son Kim Chong-il in a hereditary transition, quite unheard of elsewhere nowadays.

Dispatching such a congratulatory mission is unbecoming to a major opposition party in Japan, which to no one's denial is championing democracy in Asia, even considering the fact the SDP has traditionally maintained close ties with Pyongyang. Indeed, it has influenced the Tokyo government to open dialogue with the North. Whatever its ulterior motivation, the mission dispatch would result in pandering to North Korea's anachronistic absurdity in firming up its political grip on the heels of the Soviet bloc's collapse.

The northern leadership is holding on to the grip, at the expense of economic plight and human rights abuses. Externally, it has been delinquent on fulfilling its obligations by stalling nuclear inspections.

All this leads one to suspect that the SDP is misled in looking at the real situations in the North or intentionally distorting the realities to its political expediency. The SDP has made known its policy of favoring improvement in inter-Korean relations and has spearheaded an antinuclear movement. The SDP's such professed policy goals are incompatible with Pyongyang's present stance, especially regarding its nuclear policy.

By all appearances, the party desires the early normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea, and its planned large-scale mission must have arisen from it. But such an approach is prone to be assumed as a two-faced, paradoxical policy on the peninsula. The genuine goodwill of the SDP toward Pyongyang should be in persuading the North to abandon its nuclear ambitions, rather than sending such an incongruous congratulatory mission.

Editorials Examine UN Sanctions Against Libya

SK0204064592

[Editorial Report] Korean vernacular newspapers on the morning of 2 April carry editorials on the UN sanctions against Libya.

The conservative paper CHOSON ILBO on page 3 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "Sanctions Against Libya and the ROK."

The editorial states "the imposition of the UN sanctions against Libya is an unfortunate event at a time when the importance of international cooperation is recognized by all." The editorial reviews how Libya has become the target of global sanctions and notes the hardline stand taken by Libya, including "the delay in issuing exit visas for foreigners who are trying to leave the country."

The editorial urges Libya to "transform itself into a credible partner in the international community and hopes that the UN Security Council and Libya, the United States and the United Kingdom and Libya, can work out a settlement before the sanctions take effect." It states "it is about time Libya improved its image as an international outlaw state that is prone to commit terrorist acts."

The paper then says "of course, the Bush administration should never try to make the sanctions instrumental in the presidential election which some speculate the Bush Administration is doing."

The editorial says "at the same time the al-Qadhdhafi regime in Libya needs to be reasonable in its approach to the international community."

Describing the UN sanctions as a moderated version of the original due to opposition from the UN Security Council members, the editorial states "unless Libya initiates military actions against any other foreign countries, the possibility of these sanctions being put into effect is limited."

The editorial notes "the large-scale economic cooperation conducted between the ROK and Libya" and says that "the UN Security Council sanctions against Libya should avoid dealing a direct blow to our country which is engaged in the large-scale construction in Libya. The sanctions should also not threaten the personal safety of our workers there."

The pro-government paper SEOUL SINMUN on page 2 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "One Must Be Deliberate in Coping With the Sanctions Imposed Against Libya."

Calling the sanctions against Libya "an ultimatum," the editorial mentions Libya's retaliatory measures, including the delay in issuing exit visas for foreigners residing in Libya. The editorial expresses concern over the possibility of Libya holding a large number of foreigners hostage as Iraq did in Kuwait during the Gulf war.

Saying that "we are against terrorism as a matter of course" and that "those who are involved in terrorist acts should be punished," the editorial states "therefore, we cannot but respect the United States, the United Kingdom, and France for their international effort to track down those culprits and bring them to court."

The editorial then says "nevertheless, we hope that if possible, the UN Security Council resolution would not be put into effect and that the situation would be brought under control through diplomatic negotiation." The editorial notes the impact the UN Security Council sanctions will have on our economy and cites the extensive economic relations our country has maintained with Libya.

The editorial then stresses the need for government and business firms to make joint efforts to minimize the blow. "Going one step further, the international community and organizations should show interest in the innocent victims of such events in third countries."

The left-leaning paper HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 2 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "The United States Should Keep the Door Open to Compromise—Sanctions Against Libya and the Government's Measures."

Describing the level of sanctions as being a little to high, the editorial says "the decision of the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Libya has a few problems not only in terms of the general principles of international law and their application, but also in terms of egoism on the part of major powers. The editorial continues to say "since the United States and the United Kingdom have not signed any criminal extradition agreements with Libya, their unilateral demand for the extradition of the Libyans implicated in the bombings of the Pan Am flight, who are merely suspects, violates the general principles of international law."

The editorial says that "what must also be pointed out regarding sanctions against Libya is the major powers' egoism." It criticizes the countries which stayed away from the UN Security Council vote and mentions the United States should have made a little more diplomatic effort before passing the resolution.

The editorial says "the demand in the UN Security Council resolution that Libya prove its intention to renounce terrorism through action is the same as leaving no room for compromise."

The editorial mentions "this being the case, the government needs to be more careful than ever in taking measures to cope with the situation as the situation is likely to become steadily worse."

In conclusion, the editorial urges "in order to defend the enormous economic stakes we have in Libya, the government must prudently take into consideration two aspects—the need to respond to the UN resolution that carries binding force and to maintain long-term ties with Libya. What is more important, however, is of course to take measures to protect more than 4,000 of our workers in Libya."

DLP Plans Single Chairmanship To Lead Party

SK0104141092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1222 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) is positively considering changing its leadership arrangement currently based on three main intraparty factions into a one-man leadership system in preparation for the presidential nomination race in the May 19 convention, a ranking DLP official said Wednesday.

The party has felt the need to replace its co-chairmanship with a single chairman who will be in control of overall party affairs, the official said.

He said the party has already begun to draft an amendment to the party constitution that will legally back up the adoption of the unitary leadership system.

An initial draft has it that the party president would continue to "represent" the party as its "supreme responsible leader" and that the "chairman" will "control" overall party affairs.

It suggests that the chairman be elected upon approval by a majority of deputies on the register in the party convention.

Once drafting is completed, the amendment bill will be reviewed at the party affairs and standing committees and then be tabled at the party convention for its confirmation, it was said.

No Tae-u's Election Neutrality Questioned

SK0204035592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] With the race for the presidential candidacy in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] heating up, the role of President No Tae-u draws major attention from in and out of the party.

The question is simple. Will No, who also heads the DLP, raise the hand of a certain candidate?

Outwardly, No has repeatedly pledged his neutral position in nominating the party candidate for the presidential election to be held between Dec. 16 and Jan. 16 next year.

In a rally of the DLP's winners in the March 24 National Assembly elections at Chongwadae Tuesday, No made it clear that he would "do my utmost to ensure fair competition for the election of the party candidate."

For the much-promised fair contest, No should be maintaining strict neutrality.

However, a general view in the ruling camp is that he neither will, nor can remain neutral.

A Chongwadae official said, "The President is expected to observe 'limited neutrality' in order to help the contest proceed smoothly as the party head."

"The President cannot completely stay away from the nomination race because he has the absolute mission to have his DLP seize power again through presidential elections," he said.

In his speech at Tuesday's rally, No strongly warned of possible divisive acts splitting the party and damaging party discipline in the course of the free competition.

He emphasized that he would take resolute measures against those who defame the party, calling upon all candidates to play fair.

Other Chongwadae officials also said that the remarks of the President in the rally should not be interpreted as indicating his "absolute neutrality."

They said that No would have no choice but to intervene in the nomination if need arises.

Meanwhile supporters of executive chairman Kim Yong-sam suspect that the President is encouraging anti-Kim forces behind the scene.

No matter what the causes were, No empowered Kim to lead the party on his behalf last week and accepted Kim's demand for the holding of the nomination rally in May.

This was understood by Kim's side as No's virtual recognition of Kim as standard bearer, although Kim's intra-party opponents denied this.

For the past days, No met one after another of Kim's opponents, including Yi Chong-chan, Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun and Yi Han-tong. All three possible enemies of Kim in the race looked bright after their respective meetings, with No.

This atmosphere made Kim's side suspect that the president is maneuvering against Kim's candidacy.

Anti-Kim forces, meanwhile, will hold a session of their so-called six-member council and a series of other small-scale meetings this week to discuss various opinions on their strategy to counter Kim's candidacy by putting up a single challenger from one of their factions.

The six-member council was formed Monday by leaders of anti-Kim factions, including Pak Tae-chun, co-chairman of the DLP, and Reps. Yi Chong-chan and Yi Han-tong. Pak and the two prominent DLP representatives have already expressed their interest in running for the party's presidential nomination.

Pak also met 23 members of the former Democratic Justice Party faction Wednesday evening to reaffirm their solidarity and to discuss ways to operate the six-member panel.

The third faction in the DLP, the former New Democratic Republican Party faction led by Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil, is also expected to make its position clear with regard to who it will support for the presidential nomination.

Close confidants of Kim Yong-sam, meanwhile, got together in a downtown hotel Wednesday and decided to work for the DLP to put up Kim as the only candidate for the presidential nomination at the national convention.

They include Choe Hyong-u, minister for state affairs, Kim Tok-yong, and So Chong-won, a former director general of the office of the policy coordination of the DLP.

In addition, they plan to meet Kim Chae-son, standing adviser to the DLP, and speaker of the National Assembly Pak Chun-kyu over the weekend to ask them to work for the unanimous nomination of Kim Yong-sam.

Elsewhere, Rep. Yi Chong-chan met with Reps. Kim Pok-tong and Chang Kyong-u to explain his determination to seek the nomination Wednesday. He is expected to make a public announcement on his intention after watching developments among the anti-Kim forces to put up a single candidate.

Pro-Kim Yong-sam Forces To Form Campaign Group

SK0204020992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0133 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Supporters of Kim Yong-sam plan to form an organization next week to campaign to get the executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) nominated for president at the national convention scheduled for May 19.

The organization will be set up by Kim's faction in the DLP, led by former party secretary-general Kim Yun-hwan, to persuade all DLP representatives and heads of local chapters, except publicly known anti-Kim members, to join its camp this week.

Democratic Party Convention Set for May

SK0204065292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0553 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party will hold a national convention next month at which delegates will select a presidential candidate in an open competition, party leader Kim Tae-chung told a Japanese daily here Thursday.

"A party national convention should be held in May in accordance with the party constitution, and a presidential candidate is expected to be chosen then," Kim, widely viewed as the eventual party nominee, told the YOMIURI SHIMBUN.

Negotiations were under way on the convention, he said.

"It is possible for the opposition camp to hold power in the future no matter who the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) nominates for president," Kim said.

The three obstacles to the opposition taking power—the military, the exclusive ruling elites (Taegu-North Kyongsang clan) and conglomerates—were changing in a positive way and turning in the opposition's favor, heightening the possibility it would come to power, he said.

Noting that the opposition selected its presidential candidate in an open contest in 1959 and 1970, he maintained that there was little possibility of dissension over using the same method this year.

Kim said his party was making every effort to streamline its structure by selecting new chapter heads and to make up for its weakness in the aftermath of the March elections.

Defense Minister Apologizes for Vote Controversy

SK0204052592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0443 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang apologized to the people Thursday for the controversy over absentee voting in the military.

Choe said his ministry was looking into some press reports and other reports filed with a private organization regarding charges of irregularities in the conduct of absentee voting by some military units during last month's general elections.

"We are doing our utmost to find out the truth," he said.

Delegations from opposition parties had visited the ministry, Choe said, and if they could provide evidence related to the voting irregularities he would be able to wrap up his investigation and announce his findings by not later than this weekend.

Charges surfaced prior to and after the March 24 general elections that senior military officers emphasized the "need" to vote for the ruling party and that in some units ballots were cast in front of officers.

Foreign Debt Increases to 39.5 Billion Dollars

SK0104022092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea's total foreign debt was 39.5 billion U.S. dollars at the end of January, up 200 million dollars from a month earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK) Wednesday.

Net foreign debt, which excludes external assets (26.8 billion dollars) from total foreign debt, grew 200 million dollars to 12.7 billion dollars at the end of January.

Total and net foreign debt both rose by 7.63 billion dollars last year due to the growth of the current account deficit, which reached 8.83 billion dollars.

The central bank forecast a 9 billion-dollar current account deficit this year, boosting the total foreign debt to 45 billion dollars and net foreign debt to 18 billion dollars.

Gross foreign debt declined from a peak of 46.8 billion dollars in 1985 to 44.5 billion dollars in 1986, 35.6 billion dollars in 1987, 31.2 billion dollars in 1988 and 29.4 billion dollars in 1989.

It reversed direction, growing to 31.7 billion dollars in 1990 and 39.3 billion dollars in 1991.

The ratio of gross foreign debt to gross national product was 14.5 percent at the end of last year, up 1.2 percentage points from 13.3 percent a year earlier.

The ratio of net foreign debt to GNP was 4.6 percent at the end of last year, down from 39.6 percent at the end of 1985, 17.4 percent in 1986, 17.4 percent in 1987, and 2 percent in 1990.

The ratio of foreign debt principal and interest to current revenue was 5.8 percent at the end of last year, down from 30.8 percent in 1987 and 9.4 percent in 1990.

Trade Deficit Shows Improvement

SK0204034092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Korea's trade deficit in the first quarter of this year recorded $3.854 billion on a customs clearance basis. The figure is a $482 million improvement from the $4.336 billion registered in the corresponding period of last year.

According to an interim tally by the Trade-Industry Ministry, exports in the January-March period rose as much as 11.6 percent from the year before to $17 billion, while imports rose 6.6 percent to $21 billion.

Since the turn of this year, exports are outpacing imports.

Despite the increase in exports, the trade account in the first three months of the year swung into the red.

In March alone, the setback amounted to $756 million compared with $1 billion in the same month of last year.

Exports rose 12.4 percent to $6.437 billion, while imports increased 5.4 percent to $7.194 billion.

Exports in January rose 16.2 percent over a year ago to $5.393 billion and those in February increased 6.3 percent to $5.174 billion.

Imports in January jumped 21.1 percent to $7.320 billion but they decreased 5.3 percent in February to $6.345 billion.

The two-digit increase in exports in the January-March period was chiefly ascribed to the expansion in shipments of heavy and chemical products and the diversification of overseas markets.

In particular, petrochemicals, semiconductors, steel, general machinery, tires and automobiles performed well. But exports of textiles, footwear, toys, household appliances and precision machinery remained in the doldrums.

The continuing depreciation of the won against the U.S. dollar and other major currencies was also cited as another factor propelling exports.

The slowdown in imports was attributed to a decrease of international prices of raw materials for industrial use, the cooling-off of domestic construction activities and the cut in the supply of special foreign exchange for imports of manufacturing facilities.

The ministry said that exports will continue to expand in consideration of increasing arrivls of letters of credit (L/Cs).

The arrival of L/Cs, which serves as a yardstick to estimate export trends two or three months in advance, amounted to $12 billion in the first three months, up 10.1 percent over the year before.

On the other hand, the issuance of import licenses (I/Ls), the counterpart of the L/C arrival, decreased 14.1 percent to $14.954 billion.

Citing the increasing arrival of L/Cs and the decreasing issuance of I/Ls, the ministry said that exports will turn into full swing from the second half of the year.

A ministry official said that if the current trend continues, this year's trade deficit will be curbed at the $7 billion trend level.

The ministry projected this year's trade setback at $9.5 billion with $81.5 billion in exports and $91 billion won in imports.

Last year, Korea suffered an all-time high of trade deficit amounting to $9.6 billion.

Mining Self-Sufficiency Reported Decreasing

SK0204040392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea has supplied less than 30 percent of the mine products it consumes since 1989, the Energy and Resources Ministry said Thursday.

Korea met 84 percent of its domestic demand in 1973, but the self-sufficiency level slid to 46 percent in 1977, 31.3 percent in 1988, 29.9 percent in 1989, 28.3 percent in 1990 and 26.61 percent in January-October 1991.

Imports of mine products totaled 1,760.54 million U.S. dollars in 1990 and 1,814.67 million dollars during the first 10 months of last year, according to the ministry.

Iron ore accounted for 37.7 percent of total imports, followed by copper (15.5 percent), gold (13.8 percent), zinc (8.8 percent), phosphorite (3.8 percent), manganese (2.9 percent), sulphur (2.4 percent), kaolinite (2 percent), silver (1.8 percent) and asbestos (1.5 percent).

The continuing drop in self-supply of mine products is because the mining industry is plagued by inefficient production methods and high labor costs despite rising domestic demand.

Burma

Thai Paper Cites Diplomatic Source on Arakan Tour

BK0204013592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 92 p A4

[Text] Muslim villagers in Burma's Arakan state told diplomatic visitors on a brief visit that atrocities committed by Rangoon troops, discriminatory persecution and restrictions on their daily lives have forced about 200,000 people to flee across the border to Bangladesh.

The Rangoon-based diplomats, who were taken on a two-day tour on March 29-30 to Burmese border villages in Arakan State, were secretly handed papers describing 13 forms of maltreatment suffered by the local Muslims, according to a diplomatic source who was on the trip.

Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw led 17 mission heads and 11 military attaches, as well as 20 local correspondents and one from a Chinese news agency, to Kyeinchang village in Buthidaung township and Khamaungzeik in Maungdaw township of the southwestern state, while most Western envoys boycotted the organized trip.

The source said some of the villagers who talked to the visiting diplomats were later chased and beaten before their eyes by Burmese military intelligence officers, and in one case a group of diplomats saw "military intelligence personnel in civilian clothes drag them (villagers who had talked with the diplomats) away. One military intelligence officer held a pistol to the belly of a man who had talked to an Asian ambassador in Urdu," added the source.

The ruling junta's State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) arranged the diplomatic trip amid growing international concern and criticism over the continuing flight to Bangladesh of Burmese Muslims who have accused Rangoon of persecution and atrocities.

The villagers' papers stated, among other things, that Muslims' freedom of religious belief and activity is being restricted, and that Muslim men are being forcibly conscripted as porters for the Burmese Army and for manual labour at construction sites. Muslim Imams (religious leaders) were not exempt from the forced labour.

Unlike the Buddhist population, the movements of the Muslims in Buthidaung and Mangdaw are strictly restricted, leaving them trapped within the two towns, according to the source, who added that many Muslim villages have been destroyed by Rangoon and replaced with army camps. "Villagers are being robbed by the (Burmese) soldiers and are told to go to Bangladesh," the source cited from the papers.

The villagers also demanded that they be given "first-class citizenship as Rohingya", and that the refugees be allowed to return to Burma only "with full respect and assurance of regaining their houses, property and human rights." They also demanded that SLORC release all political prisoners and hand over power to the politicians chosen in the May 1990 election.

The source said Rangoon had failed to force the local people "to toe the SLORC line," thinking that they would not dare speak out freely and that they would not be able to communicate with the diplomats.

But some diplomats managed to communicate in local dialects with the Muslims, said the source, who added that after the trip many diplomats shared the same views and "are convinced that the Muslims are being very badly treated and persecuted".

The diplomats also noticed "a complete uneasy calm and an atmosphere of fear and terror prevailing over the whole area", and some feared the consequences to befall those who had spoken with them during the visit.

Warning on Politicizing New Year Festival Noted

BK0104153592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of Rangoon Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of Rangoon Military Command, attended a coordination meeting on holding the 1992 traditional Burmese New Year and Water Festival at the Rangoon Division police director's meeting hall yesterday at 1530 and delivered an address. [passage omitted]

Myo Nyunt said as the traditional Myanmar New Year festival is drawing near, this coordination meeting has been held to coordinate the celebrations of traditional water festivals grandly and township-wise in a happy and peaceful atmosphere. He then said the traditional Thingyan water festival in Burma is also considered Burma's New Year festival. Continuing, he said our government will not accept any political party or organization that uses the traditional Burma Thingyan water festival as a political platform.

He then explained that responsible personnel must take appropriate measures to strictly adhere to the State Law and Order Restoration Council's Declaration No. 1/88. The declaration bans the organization, movement, and public speeches made with the intent of destroying the Defense Services. He next said responsible personnel will have to take necessary precautions to get people to refrain from intimidating one another. Thus, responsible personnel should carefully scrutinize the songs and lyrics to be used at the festival.

Continuing, Myo Nyunt said although various townships can have water-throwing and prize-giving stalls to celebrate the traditional festival, the use of Western names at the stalls and floats will not be permitted. He said the use of Western names could mean that we favor foreign countries and rely on them.

Finally, he urged responsible personnel to take precautionary measures aginst the use of public water mains and fire-fighting water hydrants by water revelers.

The coordination meeting closed at 1600.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Nations Plan Collective Action at Earth Summit

BK0204104892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0851 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and other developing countries, blamed for most of the environmental destruction and pollution by the industralised nations, will map out a collective action plan on environmental issues to be presented at the "earth summit".

The plan, expected to be called the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration", will be formulated at the four-day second ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development here beginning on April 26.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding said the plan would address nine issues, notably on financial resources, transfer of technology, climatic changes and forestry.

"We will act as one and make our stand felt at the earth summit," he told a press conference at his ministry here today.

The summit or the United Nations conference on environment and development (UNCED) will be held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in June.

Malaysia, which feels that the summit would turn into a forum for the developed nations to attack the third world on environmental issues, has yet to decide whether to attend.

He added that the conference would also pave the way for developing countries to exchange views on environmental issues and serve as a platform for Malaysia to counter the anti-logging campaign mounted by some Western environmental groups.

The ministerial conference, at which Dr. Mahathir will deliver the keynote address, will be attended by ministers and officials from 45 developing nations.

Singapore

Response to Malaysian Paper on Vehicle Permits

BK0204092492 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Apr 92 p 20

[Editorial: "Setting the Record Straight"]

[Text] It was with a sense of hurt puzzlement that Singaporeans surveyed last week's editorials in the New Straits Times, Malaysian Business Times and Utusan Malaysia criticising the Republic for habitually adopting arbitrary, unilateral and insensitive measures that affect Malaysians. The immediate object of the papers' ire was Singapore's revised Vehicle Entry Permit (VEP) scheme, which one newspaper considered effectively a ban on Malaysian vehicles entering Singapore. Made part of this astounding charge was another, entirely separate, issue. This was that 200 Malaysian motorcyclists—not 5,000, as the more outrageous reports claimed—were booked in January and February for contravening the Road Traffic Act by not paying Singapore registration fees. The newspapers provided further proof of Singapore's presumed insensitivity by dredging up hoary issues like the Republic of Singapore Air Force's (RSAF) alleged conduct of search and rescue missions in Malaysia without the permission of its authorities; the Republic's decision to move its immigration and customs clearance from Tanjong Pagar to Woodlands; and the three-quarter tank rule applying to Singapore cars travelling across the Causeway. What was found unacceptable was not only the policies themselves but also the idea that Singapore could have adopted them without informing Malaysia.

In each case, the facts speak otherwise, both about the nature of the policies and their communication to Malaysia. The amended VEP scheme answers to a simple principle: There cannot be two sets of rules for cars using the same roadspace every day. The constraints of Singapore's size make harsh anti-congestion measures particularly necessary; Singaporeans accept these measures as the price of orderly traffic. That acceptance would be diluted if the measures were not to apply to foreign vehicles they share roads with. Communications Minister Mah Bow Tan explained all this to his Malaysian counterpart in November last year, two months before the scheme came into effect. In the case of motorcycle registration fees, there was nothing to inform anyone about because the policy was not new: The Road Traffic Act dates back to 1966 and has been enforced since then. What happened this time was that the Singapore authorities began checking motorcycles—both Singapore and Malaysian—after residents of Woodlands complained about smoke and pollution. In the course of those checks, it was discovered that some Malaysian motorcyclists had not paid the required registration fees.

Similarly for the search and rescue missions. The RSAF has always received permission to carry them out in accordance with procedures agreed to between it and the Royal Malaysian Air Force. As for the shift of immigration facilities to Woodlands, this was necessary because drug traffickers have utilised the railway track between Woodlands and Tanjong Pagar to drop packages after trains cross the Causeway. Illegal immigrants, too, have jumped off the train before it reaches the Tanjong Pagar immigration check-point—a point explained in 1989 to the Malaysian authorities, with periodic updating, most recently in February. Finally, the three-quarter tank ruling was intended to plug a loophole that allowed Singaporeans to avoid paying higher petrol taxes. Again, the Malaysian authorities were informed in advance—and not once, but twice: in March 1989, before the earlier half-tank ruling came into effect, and in January last year, before the three-quarter-tank amendment.

These are the details. The principle that is not open to negotiation is that as a sovereign nation, Singapore has the right to frame its own laws. Consultation with a close neighbour is admittedly important, but that cannot mean seeking prior agreement before implementing necessary policies or being obliged to change them. Tolerance and mutual respect are critical to healthy bilateral relations. They are seldom more needed than now.

Cambodia

Peace Negotiations Under Way in Kompong Thom

BK0104135392 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1120 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 1 Apr (SPK)—Peace negotiations under UN auspices among generals from Cambodian factions have been under way since Monday. Though without any results yet, they have made great progress toward ending the fighting in central Cambodia, according to UN officials cited by AFP.

For the first time since the installation of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] last November, military officials met outside Phnom Penh. The meeting was held in Kompong Thom (north of the capital) where sporadic fighting has taken place since Janauary, in violation of the peace agreement reached in Paris last October.

"We always have some problems in obtaining a cease-fire and the withdrawal (of troops to neutral positions)," said French General Michel Loridon who chaired the negotiations. "However, we are on the way to getting good results in Kompong Thom," he added stressing that all parties are "cooperative and very frank."

This is the first time Khmer Rouge generals have been invited to Kompong Thom town controlled by Phnom Penh, since they were expelled from power in 1979. Since then, their forces have battled for control of the area.

Defense Minister Tie Banh of the Phnom Penh regime announced Monday that his troops have been compelled to attack the Khmer Rouge to regain control of a major road, National Route (?1).

[Words indistinct] (northern town controlled by Phnom Penh), which is already effective, according to diplomatic sources.

Furthermore, an Australian colonel of the UN force, Russell Stuart, wounded in February in an attack against his helicopter while on a reconnaissance mission north of Kompong Thom, returned to Cambodia on Sunday after four weeks treatment in Bangkok.

UNHCR Given Access to Khmer Rouge Areas

BK0104122892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1110 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 1—The Khmer Rouge, who previously guarded their closed territory like a fortress, on Tuesday granted the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) permission to enter areas they control, AFP reports.

Both groups have been seeking the permission for months, the ICRC to inspect prisons and supervise the release of any political prisoners and the UNHCR to evaluate settlement areas for repatriated refugees.

"I think they're softening their position on the whole," said ICRC delegation chief Jean-Jacques Fresard. The ICRC inspection is scheduled for April 9, and was authorized during a meeting with Khmer Rouge leader Son Sen, he said. A previously scheduled visit in February was cancelled by the Khmer Rouge, but Fresard said he was optimistic this one would go ahead.

UNHCR officials, however, would not comment on the development, referring to previous cancellations. "We'll believe it when we see it," one official said.

The ICRC, which also monitors conditions of imprisonment for all detainees, has no idea what to expect in the Khmer Rouge zone. "They've been vague. They don't deny having any prisoners, yet they don't tell us they have any either," Fresard said. "We go without preconceptions."

The Khmer Rouge have been gradually allowing UN personnel into their zones of control, after first forbidding entry to the UN Advance Mission.

Khmer Rouge Cease-Fire Violations Condemned

BK3103100792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Undated PRACHEACHON commentary: "The Khmer Rouge Pays Only Lip Service to Their Professed Desire for Peace"]

[Text] Implementation of the Paris peace agreement has been going on for more than five months to date. Its concrete results remain entangled with complex difficulties created by the polpotist Khmer Rouge, who outwardly have professed to be wishing for peace and supporting the UN peace plan 100 percent. During these more than five months of implementing the Paris peace agreement, although they have tried hard to cover up their evil deeds, the polpotist Khmer Rouge have not succeeded in shutting off the truth. Contrary to their loud claims about wanting peace, they have been seriously violating, and continue to seriously violate, the Paris peace agreement.

According to a still incomplete report of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], during the past more than five months over 200 proven instances of Khmer Rouge cease-fire violations have been recorded, including armed violations, raids, sapping, sniping against cars, and even sniping at an UNAMIC helicopter. The regions where the polpotist Khmer Rouge have preferred to conduct their most frequent, large-scale operations that have caused the most serious damage to the lives and property of our people are the Provinces of Kompong Thom, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Battambang.

While outwardly professing to support the UN peace plan 100 percent, they practically continue to close the door by refusing to pinpoint their positions and allow UNAMIC teams to inspect them. In an ostentatious display of their desire for peace, they have been appealing for early deployment of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces. However, in their opinion this deployment should be effected in Phnom Penh only for the so-called purpose of providing protection for their leaders on missions in Phnom Penh. According to plans that we have learned of through a number of captured documents, the polpotist Khmer Rouge under the direct command of Ta Mok have pledged to increase their strength and arms and expand their zone of control as much as possible before the deployment of UNTAC. Each time they savagely wreak havoc on the nation and people, they always vociferously claim that they are doing it for the so-called purpose of driving Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, which in reality is merely a vicious scheme to cover up their policy of prolonging the war.

In the past as well as at present, the polpotist Khmer Rouge have refused to acknowledge the violations they have committed, although UNAMIC and other Cambodian factions have clearly seen through all of them. It should be stressed that since the presence of UNAMIC, the arrival of UNTAC Chief His Excellency Akashi, and the gradual deployment of UNTAC peacekeeping forces, the problem of cease-fire violations by the polpotists has not yet been solved.

Under these circumstances, recently certain persons in the Cambodian opposition factions fallaciously called for the 100 percent dissolution of the armies of all Cambodian factions [words indistinct]. In our view, if such a call were met the Khmer Rouge—who are waiting for just that kind of thing to happen—would be given the opportunity to undermine the entire peace plan itself. We hope that both UNTAC and the other Cambodian factions cooperating with UNTAC will come up with some measures to force the polpotist Khmer Rouge into complying with this historic peace agreement 100 percent so the UN peacekeeping operation can be crowned with success.

1,000 SRV Agents Reportedly Sent to Ratanakiri

BK0204012892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] On 25 March, the Vietnamese aggressors sent 1,000 espionage agents to mingle among people in Ratanakiri Province.

According to reports, these Vietnamese espionage agents wear civilian clothes to disguise themselves as ordinary Cambodian people.

The reports said that the Vietnamese aggressors ordered these agents to mingle among Cambodian people, particularly to link themselves to the people by marrying their daughters. The tasks of these Vietnamese agents are:

1. To control the Vietnamese aggressor administration at village, commune, and district levels in Ratanakiri Province.

2. To control and command the A-3 forces of the Phnom Penh side in Ratanakiri Province.

3. To seek information from among the people on the whereabouts and bases of the resistance forces to attack them.

4. To act as commando units, particularly in carrying out assassinations.

The reports stressed that the people in Ratanakiri Province had jointly opposed the Vietnamese aggressors' criminal activities and exposed their maneuvers. They were of the opinion that to successfully resolve the problem of Vietnamization in Cambodia, it is necessary for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], Supreme National Council [SNC], and all people to jointly implement the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 correctly and effectively in its entirety, particularly the following points:

First, the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces under supervision of the UNTAC and SNC.

Second, the dismantling of the armed forces of four Cambodian factions, 70 percent in the first phase and totally later on.

'Political Training' Courses

BK0204014292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] According to a report from Stung Treng Province, the Vietnamese aggressors have opened courses on Cambodian language and political training for their soldiers and introduced some of them into the army and civilian administrative sectors and sent others disguised as civilians.

The report said that 150 Vietnamese soldiers are attending political courses and learning the Cambodian

language at the clandestine school of the 1st Military Region located at kilometer marker No. 3 south of Stung Treng provincial market.

This clearly shows that Vietnam has adhered to its aggressive strategy to further occupy Cambodia and that it is ready to carry out any activity to destroy the Paris agreement and undermine Cambodia's national reconciliation.

Thus, it is very necessary to correctly implement the Paris agreement, particularly to supervise the total withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Concerning the above report, the Cambodian people propose that the UN Peacekeeping Forces and the four Cambodian factions immediately conduct supervision in Stung Treng Province.

Indonesia

Groups Oppose Suharto Relatives' Influence

BK0104123192 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Legislators and consumer advocates yesterday called for an end to the exploitation of President Suharto's relatives and high ranking officials for personal gain, citing the television fee controversy as the latest example.

The Committee for the Review of the Increase in Television Fees and the Indonesia Democratic Party (PDI) faction of the House of Representatives said the exploitation of the first family's position could endanger the nation's unity and confuse the legal system.

The committee and PDI made the statements when discussing the controversy over recent hikes in television fees and the bureaucracy's insistence on continuing to allow PT Mekatama Raya, a private firm, to exercise the monopoly it was granted in TV fee collection despite the firm's failure to meet the targets set.

The committee is made up of members of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH), the Indonesian Consumers Foundation and Permadi, chairman of [YLKI] Indonesian Mystic Believers. Established last week, it has since called for a public boycott against paying the television fees, pending a clear government explanation on the controversy.

The committee and the faction alleged that some businessmen have used the influence of President Suharto's relatives to obtain special facilities such as monopolities in their business sectors.

Permadi said he was sure President Suharto personally opposed excessive facilities for his relatives' businesses.

"The president said in his biography that his relatives should not be given excessive facilities and that he always encouraged his children to work hard," he said.

PDI faction spokesman Budi Harjono said the exploitation of the President's relatives would endanger the unity of the nation.

Sigit Harjojudanto (Suharto's eldest son) and Sudwikatmono (Suharto's cousin) have shares in Mekatama, which last year was awarded a 15-year contract to collect television fees door-to-door for the government in an effort to increase revenues.

The company, beset by internal disputes, failed to meet its promised target in its first year of operations and now requires that TV owners pay the fee through banks. The bank payment system is similar to the old system in which TV owners were required to pay through the post office.

To cap the controversy, the government last month announced hikes in television fees by an average of 200 percent, prompting criticism from the public which linked the increase to the failure of Mekatama to deliver on its promise.

The committee and PDI questioned the basis of the policy to double the fees and charged that the government awarded PT Mekatama Raya the TV fee collection project worth more than Rp 100 billion ($510 million) without opening a tender.

Zoemrotin KS of YLKI said the deal between the government and Mekatama was shrouded in mystery because neither of them had openly discussed the issue.

Nursyahbani Kacasungkana of LBH criticized Mekatama's policy of using police officers to accompany the fee collectors from door to door. He said this was clearly against the law.

"The law says police must protect the people and for the reason they should not be used by a private company to make people pay their TV fees."

General Urges 'Vigilance' Against World Problems

BK0104121692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0921 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), Apr 1 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the Udayana Military Command Maj. Gen. HBL Mantiri called for vigilance against world developments, as a problem arising in one part of the globe may quickly spread out to influence other parts as a result of disintegration and globalization.

Udayana Military Command covers Bali, Lesser Sunda Islands, and East Timor.

He said Indonesia's social condition which is most diversified must constitute a force not a weakness and "that is why we have to make continuous efforts to foster national solidarity and integrity."

The commander made the remarks in a fast breaking gathering with the local leadership, religious leaders, the mass media and the information authorities here Tuesday evening.

National integrity is a top priority especially in the wake of the recent world developments like the disintegration of the Soviet Union and East Europe, he noted.

"We must not belittle the impacts of globalization either, as it could also be made an instrument to consolidate national resilience to establish a powerful deterrence. [no closing quote marks as received]

Speaking on a possible threat against the nation's existence, the military commander said a threat possibly would be something against the Pancasila state ideology, the 1945 Constitution, the national integrity, and the continuation of development process.

He made an appeal as well to religious leaders to provide due guidance to the communities.

"This should be in conformity with their respective faith and religious teachings," he stressed.

Mantiri said the fasting month in Bali has proceeded smoothly and without any obstacle and this is an indication of prevailing solid mutual understanding among various religions.

Laos

Fifth Plenary Session of LPRP CC Reported

BK3104150192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 31 Mar 92

[News release on the Fifth Plenary Session of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Commitee; date not given]

[Text] The Fifth Plenary Session of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [5th LPRP CC], which was convened between 20 and 30 March 1992 under the chairmanship of Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP CC, was concluded with brilliant success. The plenary session reviewed and assessed the organization of implementation of the resolutions of the 5th LPRP Congress in the past year. At the same time, it also mapped out the direction of tasks for the year 1992, aimed at more vigorously and comprehensively implementing the cause of restructuring so as to take the country forward more firmly and to securely defend the country.

The plenary session discussed in depth the detailed direction and policy to promote comprehensive agricultural production (?produce commericial goods) and (?link it to) rural development, the building and development of model farming families, (?the implementation of the princiciple of centralized management) [words indistinct], the transformation of inefficient enterprises into other forms of ownership, the consolidation of work, and the (?policy) on promoting foreign economic relations and foreign investment in all spheres of work in our country. At the same time, the session also emphasized intensification of the leadership of the party committees at all levels under the responsibilities of various services to upgrade the national defense and public security maintenance work among the entire masses, link the grass-roots building with [words indistinct], and develop and enhance the role of the Armed Forces to engage in the national development and construction work.

In addition to pointing out the outstanding achievements attained by our entire party, Army, and people in the past year, the plenary session also voiced frank criticism and comments on the remaining weak points, shortcomings as well as [words indistinct] in implementing the line, plans, and policies outlined at the 5th LPRP Congress by analyzing causes and (?laying down) some methods and measures aimed at resolving each problem and doing away with certain shortcomings and negative phenomena, increasing the unity in the party leadership and state management, and upholding the responsibility and faith of cadres and state employees with a view to organizing implementation of the party's policies in order to make them more fruitful.

The plenary session noted that in the present, the hostile forces have actively carried out movements in various forms and through various cunning tricks, aimed at sabotaging and destroying our popular democratic regime.

Therefore, our entire party, Army, and people must further uphold the spirit of patriotism, maintain a sense of unity and oneness, constantly maintain a sense of vigilance, and actively take part in fulfilling the two strategic tasks of national defense and national construction, thus bringing progress and prosperity to our country and better welfare to our multiethnic people.

Militia Consolidation Plan for 1992 Outlined

BK0104150392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Unattributed editorial: "Strive To Fulfill the Plan To Consolidate the Regional Forces Work in 1992"]

[Text] Beloved listeners, while the current national defense situation and public security work is changing in a complicated manner, it is necessary for us to step up efforts to defend our beloved country and safeguard fruits of revolution. The fourth plenary session resolution of the 5th Party Congress on national defense and public security stated: we consolidate national defense and public security maintenance forces with a new quality to conform to the new situation.

Relying on the party's said guideline, the Regional Forces Department has studied and outlined detailed tasks on the consolidation and building of the militia and self-defense forces for 1992 by concentrating efforts on its gradual improvement and upgrading in all aspects. They are as follows: reviewing the organizational system and the formation of command cadres, increasing the level of tactical and strategic standards, organizing training and study, executing combat preparation work, and stepping up policy work. In organizing efforts to deal with these issues, we must firmly grasp the spirit and detailed objective of each task. For example, we must do

whatever we can to modify the organizational system to make it suit the local forces. This is to ensure firmness in their systematic coordination and a harmony with the leading elements in localities. The consolidation and reoganization of these forces must be based on the conditions, capabilities, qualifications, principles, and health of individuals. The formation of these forces must be based on the local conditions, and its principle must be correctly and appropriately applied, depending on actual forces. In doing this, regulations and rules must be strictly outlined to enable them to know how to effectively use and safeguard weapons. With regard to command cadres, special attention must be paid to improving their standards, conditions, principles, true nature, level of capabilities in performing duties for the common interests, their patriotic spirit, and faith for the country and people.

Refresher courses on tactical and strategic standards must be organized for all militia units and platoons in each village and the relevant data must be collected for planning future training programs. The levels of each category of individuals must be clearly identified. Efforts must be made to fulfill the objectives of the training at each step.

Self-defense forces attached to offices, organizations, factories, and production establishments must review and consolidate their organization to conform to their actual conditions. They must closely coordinate with the Regional Forces Department of the National Defense Ministry so as to allow the two forces to consolidate simultaneously. Self-defense forces must be built and organized in all localities along local conditions. After that, there must political and military training.

In 1992, the Regional Forces Department plans to encourage all provinces and districts to build mobile and reserve forces into model units, platoons, and companies. This are lessons for localities which have failed to effectively carry out this work. The aim of giving political training to self-defense forces is to enable them to understand the true nature of our army and the heroic deeds of the militia forces of Xieng Khouang Province, which have contributed to the national liberation struggle. Militia and self-defense forces must study and appreciate their rights and duties, the Constitution, and all other laws.

Military training must involve practical activities such as searching for enemy commandos and spies. Combat theories for individuals and each company must be studied. Militia and self-defense forces must be educated so that they will understand the how to use the weapons assigned to them. Each province must organize at least one or two training sessions for students at the secondary and senior high school levels and advanced and intermediate specialized training schools. Basic military courses must be organized for them for a duration of between 10 and 15 days.

To successfully fulfill the plan's aims to build and consolidate the regional forces and the militia and self-defense forces in 1992, all party and command committees and grass-roots party units must appreciate and firmly grasp the spirit of the fourth resolution of the 5th Party Congress and Resolution No. 11 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau on national defense and public security maintenance work with a new quality and under a new situation. The leading parties at the provincial level and the provincial and district military commands should adopt unified resolutions and plans to send cadres to build the grassroots under the direct supervision of the provincial and district administrations. The provincial and district military commands must act as staff units for the provincial administrations in closely following and supervising this work. The building of the political foundations must be closely linked to the building of the field posture of people's war. The province and district must set up experimental targets in building certain localities to gather experience for building other localities. In doing this, they must closely follow, provide conveniences to, and resolve all difficulties for the lower level. At the same time, close cooperation and coordination must be developed with the regular forces and other central organizations located in their vicinity.

Special attention must be paid to reviewing and drawing lessons from each step of this work. Shortcomings must be expeditiously resolved and lessons and results must be simultaneously publicized.

Another important factor in ensuring the effective execution of this work is the implementation of the policy of praising and giving commendations as well as assisatance to the militia and self-defense forces correctly and promptly.

Army Mass Media Personnel Hold Annual Meeting

BK3103103192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 March, the editorial staff of the Army newspaper and radio broadcasting programs held an official meeting to review the achievements fulfilled in 1991 and to map out a new direction of tasks for the new year. Presiding over the meeting was Major General Chanko Phimmason, deputy director of the Lao People's Army General Political Department.

The meeting pointed out several fundamental favorable gains made by cadres and combatants in this service in the past year. Particularly, they endeavored to overcome numerous obstacles to brilliantly fulfill the duties entrusted by the higher level. In the meantime, many remaining problems were also raised for the service to resolve in the new year. The participants studied the direction of the new tasks that must be fulfilled by the service, primarily in providing ideological and political study to the cadres and combatants aimed at improving the quality of the Army newspaper and radio programs so as to make them a genuine outlet of information for

the national defense and public security maintenance forces. At the same time, meritorious certificates—five from the Ministry of National Defense and eight from the General Political Department—were presented to a number of cadres with outstanding achievements.

After that, Maj Gen Chanko Phimmason addressed the meeting, noting the overall situation of our party in continuing to effect the cause of restructuring. At the end, he called on all cadres and combatants engaging in mass media work to strive to study in order to increase their knowledge, and to serve society and the country, thus becoming a true source of information for our national defense and public security maintenance forces.

Five State Enterprises Sold in Luang Prabang

BK2703095492 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 27 (KPL)—In the first quarter of this year, Luang Prabang Province sold out five local state enterprises through bids. This move was in accordance with the renovation policy of the party and state that aims to ensure economic efficiency by turning business operation to the other form of ownership.

The sold-out enterprises were the Transport, Repair, and Spare Part Supply Company, the Food Company, the Construction Company No. 2, and the Food Company of Luang Prabang District. The total sale price of these companies was 35,300,000 kip.

Netherlands To Pay for Irrigation Project Repair

BK0104122492 Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 1 (KPL)—A meeting of the Dutch-funded Mekong irrigation project involving Laos and Thailand wound up here on 26 March following 3 days of consultation on the execution of the project in four targeted provinces. The International Mekong Committee is the executing agency of the project.

The four targeted provinces are Vientiane Prefecture, Vientiane, Khammouane, and Savannakhet Provinces.

According to Mr. Nouandeng, the head of the project on the Lao side, the Lao-Thai Mekong irrigation project, first phase, operating between late 1988 to 1991, was granted U.S. $3.3 million worth of gratuitous aid fund. Out of the sum, U.S. $200,000 comes to Laos for the purchase of water pumps and materials for irrigation construction.

As for the second phase, the Netherlands has allocated 6.8 million dollars to the project in which 60 percent goes to the Lao side. The fund will be used in repairing and extending irrigation network in the said four provinces.

The second phase starting in early 1992 and finishing 1996 will irrigate 1,324 hectare rice fields.

Philippines

U.S. Criticized for Stand on Thai Election

HK0204033592 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Thai Humiliation"]

[Text] The Thais, said to be a sovereign nation, have not been able to organize a new government and elect a new prime minister because the United States, said to be a democratic country that respects the rights of independent states, has in effect vetoed the person chosen by Thailand's leaders for the office.

He is Narong Wingwan, leader of the party that captured the largest number of seats in inconclusive elections that failed to produce an outright majority for any party. A coalition was formed that nominated him to be prime minister.

That was when a U.S. State Department spokeswoman said Narong had been refused a visa to visit the United States in 1991 because of U.S. Government suspicions he was linked to an international drugs trade. The accusation exploded like a bomb in the country's political salons, and Thailand's leaders have been quarreling since over whether to allow the United States to dictate their domestic politics or tell it to lay off and go to hell.

At one extreme were the remarks of a Narong partymate urging all the Thai people and media to "come out to defend their country." He added, "Now Thailand is being bullied by the United States. Thailand is not a slave of the United States." At the other end was the challenge from a Thai "Amboy" for Narong to "prove himself that what the United States accuses him of is not true." In other words, if the Americans accuse an Asian "ally" of any crime he is presumed guilty unless he can prove himself innocent.

The saddest reaction, which seemed to say it all, came from no less than the Thai foreign minister, Arsa Sarasin. "Washington has always regarded Thailand as their colony," he said.

Actually, Thailand's highest anti-narcotics official quickly cleared Narong of any involvement in drug trafficking, saying he had never come across any evidence to implicate him. The U.S. Government has not offered the slightest of its proof to substantiate its allegation used as the basis for denying him a visa. And it said it will not do so, which means it wants the Thai Government and people to take its word blindly and trust it implicitly.

Narong is said to be ready to give up the prime ministership because he feels he is in a no-win situation. He has accepted he can't fight City Hall. Perhaps he also wants to save his country from being invaded. When the United States accused Gen Antonio Noriega, once an "asset" of the CIA, of being involved in the drug trade it

invaded his country, Panama, just to capture him. Narong, a Thai patriot, doesn't want the same thing to happen to Thailand.

The United States has never known what to do about its extensive drug problem. It has refused to acknowledge and admit that the problem lies with its own people and their insatiable, psychotic appetite for quick fixes and chemically-induced highs. So it looks for scapegoats everywhere else, especially in the countries that grow the plants which are processed into drugs, ignoring the simple fact that, if there were not such a large American demand for the stuff, the supply would wither from its own infirmity and die.

And, under the guise of leading a world-wide battle against drugs (while blithely) overlooking its own frontyard and backyard, it has interfered in the domestic politics of dozens of countries, principally in Latin America and now Thailand. And in the Philippines. That still unsolved and now forgotten shootout at the Magallanes Village parking lot between military officers and the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation] was sparked by an alleged drug- busting operation engineered by U.S. anti-drugs agents. Of course, the minute blood flowed and bodies dropped dead, they were immediately flown out of the country and have been unavailable since.

Poor Thailand cannot talk back to the Americans because, as its own foreign minister has conceded, it is a U.S. "colony." If this had happened in Malaysia Mohammed Mahathir would have swiftly kicked them in the groin. But there are a few national leaders left who still have the guts and gumption to do that. The rest, when confronted by George Bush's "new world order," are wimps and fairies.

Manila To Comply With UN Decision on Libya

Dependents Advised To Leave

HK0104122392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon announced that the Philippines will participate in ensuring the safety of thousands of Filipinos who are still in Libya. The air and arms embargo was enforced by the United Nations in order to force Libya to surrender the suspected airline bombers:

[Begin Drilon recording in English] We have already alerted the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli and the dependents of our workers there have already been advised to leave since they do not have any contracts which would be binding to their employers. Plans are being prepared, the embassy team are now checking on the physical location of the Filipinos, and they have already started to identify possible land routes should the embargo, air embargo take effect on April 15. [end recording]

Compliance To Complicate Evacuation

HK0204132592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 2 Apr 92

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The Philippines will comply with the UN resolution against Libya. This was announced by the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA]. However, according to DFA Under Secretary Pablo Suarez, compliance with the resolution would pose a problem in evacuating Filipinos from Libya.

Suarez said that the expulsion of Libyan diplomats from the country would mean that this would also be done to our diplomats in Libya, adversely affecting efforts to evacuate Filipinos from Libya.

He also said another problem in the evacuation of Filipino overseas workers from Libya is that most of them are under contract with the Libyan government.

At the moment, the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli is still trying to find out the number of Filipinos in the country and their location. An estimated 40,000 Filipinos and their dependents are in Libya. According to Suarez, our government has advised Filipino workers to send their dependents home as soon as possible.

The UN resolution will take force on 15 April. This comes after Libya's refusal to surrender two of its nationals suspected of being involved in the downing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerby, Scotland.

Suarez added that there is a possibility that the Libyan Government may refuse to allow Filipinos to leave Libya. Escape routes through the Tunisian and Egyptian borders have been plotted for the Filipino workers.

Authorities Trim Military Contingent to Cambodia

HK0104124892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Apr 92 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] Government authorities have revised a plan to send a military contingent to Cambodia to join the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) force this month.

Camp Aguinaldo authorities yesterday said an 84-man Marine contingent and 15 naval officials would be sent to Indochina instead of the large 850-man infantry battalion which the United Nations had requested of each country participating in the UNTAC mission.

Military authorities gave three reasons for the change in the deployment plans. First, sending a large infantry battalion would be more expensive considering that the UN had required the participating country to deploy a military force with a 60-day supply of provisions.

Second, the military would need more soldiers in the field to fight the communist insurgency, especially now that the military was reportedly at the homestretch of their counterinsurgency campaign.

Finally, the military would have its hands full in maintaining law and order during the first general elections since democracy was restored six years ago.

The United Nations passed a resolution two months ago creating a military contingent composed of about 16,000 multi-lateral forces to oversee, monitor, and supervise the Cambodian ceasefire agreement.

An informal invitation was sent to the Philippines to send an 850-man infantry contingent and another 75-man police team to help the UN enforce law and order in the war-torn Indochinese country.

The cost of sending such a huge infantry battalion prompted the military to offer to send a 350-man token force instead, which would cost the government some P222 million [Philippine pesos] in equipment and supplies.

The UN turned down the offer and instead requested the deployment of two 42-man Marine Corps platoons to oversee and monitor the demobilization of the 4,000-strong Cambodian naval force.

Five officers and 10 other soldiers on observer status were also requested to board Cambodian naval vessels and monitor the remaining 30 percent of the Cambodian navy.

The government would actually spend not only for the travel of the soldiers from Manila to Phnom Penh, but also for their uniforms, equipment and supplies for 60 days.

About P28 million would be needed to deploy the 99-man naval contingent, which would be reimbursed by the UN later.

The UN also promised to pay each soldier taking part in the six-to-18-month mission, regardless of rank, $998 per month plus a $261 supplementary.

The Philippine contingent would probably leave in mid-April.

Peace Corps Deployed to 'Low-Risk' Areas

HK0104122592 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Apr 92 p 3

[By Dionisio Tubianosa and Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday said the return of the United States Peace Corps volunteers [PCV] to the country and their assignment to so-called low-risk areas were part of the conditions set in an agreement between the Philippine and U.S. governments.

"The Peace Corps is returning under conditions which were mutually agreed upon between the Philippines and the United States," Mrs. Aquino said in a statement to Palace media.

The U.S. government hastily pulled out its 261 Peace Corps volunteers in June 1990 following a series of crimes and other acts directed at American nationals by the underground movement, particularly the communist insurgents.

In June 1990, the U.S. government hastily pulled out its 261 Peace Corps volunteers in the country after communist insurgents waged a series of attacks against their nationals. In that year, U.S. Colonel Nick Rowe, then assigned to JUSMAG [Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group] headquarters in Quezon City, was gunned down by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels on his way to work.

Also in that year, NPA rebels kidnapped in Negros Island a Japanese aid worker, Fumio Mizumo, and an American Peace Corps volunteer, Timothy Swanson. The two were only released after extensive negotiations with the rebels.

Mrs. Aquino explained that following the volunteers' 1990 departure from the country she ordered the creation of a committee headed by Secretary Cayetano Paderanga to review the PCV program and help identify low-risk areas.

Last Saturday, an initial batch of 23 volunteers arrived in the country. The volunteers will be deployed in three insurgency-free and rustic provinces of Batanes, Catanduanes and Bohol.

United States Peace Corps Philippine Director Jon Darrah bared this at Camp Crame where the volunteers were given a briefing on the country's peace and order situation.

Colonel Benjamin Advincula, the liaison officer for foreign affairs of the Philippine National Police, advised the volunteers not to go to areas considered hotbeds of insurgents and even areas where there were intense political rivalries between clans.

Advincula specifically told the volunteers not to visit the provinces of Masbate, Nueva Ecija, Sulu, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

"Pleace inform us first if you want to go to areas other than your assignment," Advincula told the volunteers who arrived in the country last Saturday to resume a 30-year program suspended two years ago under threat of the communist insurgents' attacks.

Darrah said the 23 American volunteers—with ages ranging from 23 to 64 years—have at least four areas of specialization, namely: social forestry, coastal resources management, water supply and agriculture production.

The volunteers, added Darrah, would stay in the designated provinces for three months. After the three-month period, Darrah said they would be reassigned until they completed their 27-month "service" in the country.

The U.S. government spends $2.8 million annually for this program which began during the term of the late US President John F. Kennedy in 1961. In that year, the American volunteers were tasked to help teach Filipino students subjects like Mathematics, English and Science [capitalization as published].

"We hope that we could help alleviate the people in the grassroots level from poverty by providing them with lower or middle technical help," said Darrah who described the one-hour security briefing of the police as "frank and to the point."

U.S. Asked To Stop Shipment of Marcos Remains

HK0204080792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 2 Apr 92 pp 1, 6

[By Booma Cruz]

[Text] Manila has requested Washington not to allow the transport back home of the remains of former President Marcos without the approval of the Philippine government.

The diplomatic note sent to the United States embassy asked the U.S. government "to disallow the remains of the former president to be loaded in any commercial airline or private aircraft or any commercial or private passenger cargo ocean-going vessel or water craft with the Philippines as the ultimate destination unless the coffin, box or case has the proper consular seal affixed in accordance with existing DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] rules and regulations."

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said the official request had to be made in view of the Marcoses apparent refusal to submit their burial plans to Malacanang for approval.

He said the U.S. government had already informed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the request.

The FAA has notified all airlines and airline operators of the existing ban on the return of Marcos' corpse, Drilon said.

Earlier, Malacanang also ordered the Philippine consul general in Honolulu to conduct a 24-hour watch on the burial ground of the deposed dictator to prevent any attempt to disinter the corpse which is kept in a refrigerated crypt.

The Department of Transportation and Communications [DOTC] was also directed to ensure that no commercial or private aircraft bearing the remains would be allowed to enter Philippine territory without clearance from the Palace.

The diplomatic note and twin directives to the DFA and DOTC were issued after Mrs. Marcos vowed to bring home the body of her husband with or without Malacanang approval.

The Marcoses, according to Marcos lawyer Dean Antonio Coronel, said the remains of the late president would definitely be brought home on April 12 or 13 and buried on April 21, as originally planned.

Coronel criticized President Aquino for imposing the additional condition of conducting talks with Drilon and submitting burial plans for the return of the Marcos body after his clients have already complied with the requirements earlier set by the government.

"We have agreed to fly the body to Laoag directly from Honolulu. We have assured Mrs. Aquino we will not parade the body around. *Ano pa ba ang gusto niya* [what else does he want]?" he said.

Malacanang has announced through the media that a Marcos return was possible only after the former first family sits down with the government.

President Aquino has ordered Drilon to sit down with the Marcoses to make sure that public order and safety are protected and that the bringing back of the former President's body would not be used for political purposes.

Japanese, Indonesian Envoys Vow Stronger Ties

HK0104121992 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Apr 92 p 1, 22

[By Isabel C. de Leon]

[Text] New Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Hirokazu Arai and Indonesian Ambassador Pieter Damanik reaffirmed yesterday their governments' support for President Aquino and vowed to exert their best efforts in further promoting warm and friendly relations between their countries and the Philippines.

In simple rites at Malacanang, the Japanese envoy, who replaced Ambassador Toshio Goto, presented his letter of credence to President Aquino and conveyed the Emperor of Japan's best wishes.

Arai expressed his admiration for the strenuous efforts exerted by Mrs. Aquino to rebuild democracy and to develop the economy of the Philippines during the last six years.

He also expressed his strong wish to further improve the wide- ranging cooperation between the two countries in economic, social, cultural, and educational fields.

Ambassador Damanik, 58, was the former director general of foreign affairs of Indonesia for cultural and social relations and information.

He was accompanied by his wife Ria in presenting his credentials to Mrs Aquino.

Restrictions Lifted on Use of Subic Shipyard

HK0204053092 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Apr 92 p 2

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] Malacanang yesterday said it is lifting a U.S.-imposed restriction on other foreign commercial vessels's use of ship repair services of the Philippine Shipyard and Engineering Corp (PHILSECO) near Subic Naval Base.

The restriction, imposed on vessels from socialist countries, was previously enforced at the request of the U.S. Ships entering PHILSECO would have to pass by the naval base, prompting the U.S. navy to worry about security.

But Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said yesterday the government was now allowing all commercial ships regardless of flag or country of origin to enter PHILSECO. This is meant to boost the commercial viability of PHILSECO which will soon be privatized.

Military vessels, including U.S. warships, will be banned from PHILSECO in compliance with the provision of a loan agreement with Japan, which financed the establishment of PHILSECO. Japan asked that the project not be used for military purposes.

Ambassador Alejandro Melchor had recommended the privatization of PHILSECO, the opening of its facilities to all flags, and the negotiation to remove restrictions on military ships to make it more competitive with Japanese shipyards which have priced itself out of the market due to high labor cost.

Melchor, presidential adviser on the bases conversion, made the recommendations during his report to the Cabinet on March 4 on the plans and programs for transforming Subic into civilian use.

PHILSECO officials have been reported to say that the government corporation has been losing millions of dollars in profit as a result of this restriction.

Drilon said this time, only personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the immigration bureau would be allowed to board and inspect foreign ships bound for PHILSECO. This, he said, is a regulation which applies to all vessels berthing at any Philippine port.

Police Identify Mindanao Election 'Hot Spots'

HK0204060092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Apr 92 p B-17

[By Jess Dalisay]

[Text] Cotabato City—Almost 80 barangays in 12 towns in the provinces of North Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat have been placed on the "critical" list of election hot spots by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

This was bared by Brig General Rogelio Martin, PNP-12 Regional Director, in a briefing attended by regional and local Comelec [Commission on Elections] officials over the weekend. In the briefing was PNP Director-General Cesar Nazareno and City Mayor Ludovico Baboy.

Sultan Kudarat was reported as having 31 barangays in the towns of Lutayan, Kalamnsig and Palembang as "critical," and even barangays in Lutayan and Palembang as "sensitive."

Trouble is expected in 26 barangays in the South Cotabato towns of Lake Sebu, T'boli, Banga, Surallah and Maasim, with another 17 barangays in the "sensitive" category.

Twelve barangays in the North Cotabato towns of Makilala, Tulunan, Magpet and Kidapawan were placed on the "critical" list, and another 23 barangays in the same towns on the "sensitive" list.

The three provinces accounted for a total of 79 "critical" and 47 "sensitive" barangays.

Ramos Arrives Just After Tuguegarao Explosion

HK0204052292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] A large land mine exploded in Tuao town, Tuguegarao, injuring 14 Philippine National Police operatives. The explosion occurred two minutes before the arrival of the advance party of Lakas EDSA-NUCD [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue-National Union of Christian Democrats] presidential candidate Fidel Ramos. The authorities said the mine may have been planted by communist rebels to disrupt the election process in that province. Ramos had just attended a rally at the Arnaiz Stadium in Tuguegarao and was due to arrive in Tuao when the explosion occurred.

Earlier, authorities confirmed there was a plot to assassinate Ramos, hatched by the communists and Ramos' political opponents.

NPA Raid Destroys Four Air Force Helicopters

HK0204005192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] The New People's Army [NPA] attacked the military's Composite Air Support Force in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, and destroyed four of the Philippine Air Force's Huey helicopters. According to General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, the offensive took place yesterday at 1800 GMT as the rebels attacked with three M-79 and M-203 grenade launchers and many rounds of gunfire. The helicopters, which were parked on the helipad, were destroyed during nonstop bombing by the communist rebels. Abadia added that the raid was carried out on the 23d anniversary of the NPA's founding.

Gunmen Kill Occidental Mindoro Councillor

HK0204093192 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Gunmen, believed to be New People's Army [NPA] members, shot and killed a councillor in

Barangay (Casage), Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro. A Camp Crame report identified the councillor as Marino (Echon), 42 years old. The gunmen, led by a certain Ka Louie, forced their way into the victim's house and shot him to death. The killers fled soon after, leaving behind a towel and spent bullets from an M-14 rifle.

An initial investigation by the Occidental Mindoro police revealed that the motive for the killing was political.

Military Rebels Condemn Raid To Nab Honasan

HK0104120892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] The Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) yesterday condemned the raid conducted on a Quezon City residence last Saturday on "unverified information that former Army Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio 'Gringo' Honasan was there, attending a graduation party."

"Colonel Honasan does not have the luxury of time and the stomach attending [as published] parties while majority of Filipinos go hungry and the Aquino regime continues to betray and prostitute the ideals and vision of EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue]," a RAM-SFP-YOU statement said.

It added that at the time of the raid, Honasan was in Cagayan de Oro, attending a dialog with RAM officers and supporters. From there, Honasan proceeded to Iligan City, the statement said.

In Malacanang, President Aquino said Honasan's alleged escape had been rendered "immaterial" by the people's determined desire to pursue a peaceful transfer of power through clean and credible elections on May 11.

Mrs Aquino, however, said the military and police would not abandon their pursuit of Honasan and his dwindling followers.

"While we continue to hope that all of the rebel leadership of the left and the right will be arrested, the confinement of Honasan does not carry as much significance as it once did. These matters have been superseded by the present electoral contest and the clear choice of the people that the transfer of power will be only through peaceful and orderly elections," Mrs Aquino stated.

The RAM statement said Honasan learned of the raid on the Estrada home only last Monday, and he immediately sent a letter of apology to a member of her family.

"We also strongly condemn the attempt by some unscrupulous members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to link the RAM with the activities of the so-called Red Scorpion Group led by a certain Alfredo de Leon.

Meanwhile, the younger brother of Honasan, who bolted the Western Police District [WPD] detention cell last December 1989, yesterday surrendered to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) authorities.

Alberto B. Honasan, who was thrown to jail after he was implicated in the gun-slaying of a Malate businessman, Ramon Orosa, on December 8, 1988, yielded to NBI Director Epimaco Velasco.

Alberto bolted the WPD cell at the height of the failed December 1989 coup allegedly for fear that mutinous rebels might attack the police main headquarters along UN Avenue in Manila.

Thailand

Refugees Move Across Border To Escape Offensive

BK2903125692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Bangkok, March 29 (AFP)—Burmese refugees, including some Moslems, are continuing to flee into Thailand to escape a Burmese troop offensive against Karen rebel strongholds along the border, a private aid official said Sunday.

The official, known as Pastor Robert, said the refugees entering Thailand in recent days included "a few hundred" Moslems who live in Karen areas along the border and fled with the members of the ethnic minority.

Asked if they were fleeing because of reported persecution by government troops in their homeland, Robert replied, "This is difficult to verify. Like the Karens, they fear reprisals from the army."

He said there had long been Moslem communities of up to a few hundred people in each of the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand.

The military government in Rangoon has vowed to wipe out the Karen guerrilla strongholds before the dry season ends in May. The junta recently said it was committing additional troops to the offensive.

Most Burmese Moslems live in the west of the country. Nearly 200,000 Royhingya Moslems from western Arakan province have fled into Bangladesh in recent months, alleging widespread atrocities by Burmese soldiers.

Robert provides medicine and other humanitarian supplies to refugees from his private center in the Thai bordertown of Mae Sot, some 240 kilometers (150 miles) northwest of Bangkok.

AIDS Victims Said Given Cyanide

BK0204012092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 92 p A2

[Text] Reports that Burmese girls infected with AIDS were being injected with cyanide to stop the spread of the

virus in Burma has prompted Thai police to stop deporting any girls caught working as prostitutes in brothels in Thailand.

Crime Suppression Division [CSD] Deputy Commander Pol Bancha Charucharit said the decision not to deport any more Burmese women was made after he learnt of the fate of 25 of them recently sent back to Burma.

Bancha said the CSD last June rescued 25 Burmese women, aged 18 to 35, from a brothel in Ranong province after a complaint was lodged by a Thai Burmese, Anong Dumklang.

Anong said two of his Burmese cousins, identified only as Nunu and Mama, went missing when they crossed the border into Thailand to buy some items. He said after seeking help from Thai police they were found among 25 women rescued from the Ranong brothel.

Bancha, who leads an anti-prostitution centre under the Police Department, said all the women were found to be infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

After all the HIV-infected women were deported to Burma, he learnt that they had gone missing from their villages. Later, he was told that they had been injected with cyanide to prevent them from spreading the virus.

But he could not say who gave them the injections and did not know whether the girls had died.

Because of this incident, Bancha said no other Burmese girls released from brothels would be deported.

The anti-prostitution centre had recently rescued 147 girls from three brothels in Bangkok and found that 76 had AIDS. The rest had other sexually transmitted diseases.

The fate of the Burmese girls drew the attention of a reporter from a British newspaper, the DAILY TELEGRAPH. Bancha said the reporter had visited him to get more information on the incident.

The reporter told him that he had heard about the incident from a speaker at a seminar in Thailand, but further details were not available.

Narcotics Control Official Views Narong Affair

BK0204003592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Kamnans, village headmen and canvassers working for Narong Wongwan peddled narcotics and may have used his plantation as a transit point but there is no evidence directly linking the prime minister-nominee to drug trafficking, Narcotics Control Board [NCB] secretary-general Pol Gen Chaowalit Yotmani said yesterday.

Pol Gen Chaowalit said the NCB investigation never involved the Samakkhi Tham Party leader, only his subordinates.

"Mr Narong's subordinates—kamnans, village headmen and canvassers—were involved in narcotics trafficking. They may have cultivated ties with Mr Narong because of the strategic location of the plantation," Police Gen Chaowalit said.

However, he added that this was "normal" because an MP has a lot of friends and some of them may have used his name when they did something wrong.

"A suspected drug peddler with links to Mr Narong was the target of investigation. The suspect canvassed for Mr Narong in the general election last month. It's just a circumstantial link that does raise a fair amount of doubt. But it can't be said that Mr narong is involved in drugs. We have no evidence to that effect," Pol Gen Chaowalit said.

Asked why the information the Thai authorities had differed to that in possession of the United States Pol Gen Chaowalit said he did not know what information the US had that made them refuse a visa to Mr Narong.

Asked if it was information on drug trafficking, Pol Gen Chaowalit said: "That's their business, not ours. But if we are to accuse anyone we will have to have sound evidence. If we don't have evidence and accuse this or that person then the Narcotics Control Board's credibility will be damaged."

Asked if the information Thai authorities had was not supportive of Mr Narong, the police general said that it was not supportive of anyone. "We cannot prove that there is evidence implicating Mr Narong. If we accuse him if would cause him damage," Pol Gen Chaowalit said.

Asked if Thailand and the US exchange information on drug trafficking, he said each country carries out its own investigation and if the information thus received tallies on both sides action is taken.

Asked if politicians with drug links were detrimental to national security, Pol Gen Chaowalit said drug trafficking bred other social ills such as corruption, prostitution and gambling, adding that the drug money was laundered by investing in these places and building new hotels.

"The Narcotics Control Board is trying to get to the truth but as long as we do not have the facts that could be used to nail down the culprits we cannot speak of them in public."

Asked if the narcotics board had any information on other politicians suspected of involvement in the narcotics trade, Pol Gen Chaowalit said: "When I have I will tell you."

'Ready To Resign' if Economy Hurt

BK0204005192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Apr 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan is ready to resign as prime minister if the controversy over his alleged drug connections causes damage to the Thai economy.

Bur Mr Narong reaffirmed his innocence in talks with selected reporters last night and said he remained committed to forming and heading the next government.

Two international wire agencies, quoting Western diplomatic sources, reported yesterday that the United States was unlikely to release information on Mr Narong because this could still be used as the basis for a indictment on narcotics conspiracy charges.

Despite reports supporters are seeking his graceful exit, Mr Narong said he had never thought of withdrawing because this would amount to "betraying the people who support me".

"I have (political) spirit," he declared.

"If anything happens which causes damage to the country, If I make a mistake that causes damage to the country—for instance, if partners refuse to trade or allies refuse to trade—I will resign immediately.

"If there is damage as a result of me becoming prime minister, I will leave immediately. Remember my words," he said.

But Mr Narong still considers the allegations against him a personal matter, and "therefore I cannot give in".

Mr Narong's nomination as prime minister came under a cloud when US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, in response to a reporter's question, confirmed that Mr Narong had been denied a visa to the US in July last year because he was suspected of being involved in narcotics trafficking.

The Samakkhi Tham leader said he would first have to examine whether his inability to visit the US had caused damage to the country if, as prime minister, he was refused entry.

He asked what would happen if he was able to find "other markets" for Thailand apart from the US, one of Thailand's major trading partners.

Mr Narong said his replacement could be chosen without having to dissolve Parliament if he was forced to resign as prime minister.

National Peace-keeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong has said he would find it difficult submitting Mr Narong's nomination to His Majesty.

But Mr Narong last night said: "Then this would be a problem. Can you prove that I am guilty?"

He would call another party meeting should Gen Sunthon block his nomination, but the problem would only arise if the NPKC chairman alone proposed the name of the prime minister.

His understanding is that both the House Speaker, probably Samakkhi Tham deputy leader Athit Urairat given his support among the Samakkhi Tham-led alliance, and Gen Sunthon would jointly propose the name.

Mr Narong said he did not think it was possible to propose an "outsider" as prime minister if something happened to his nomination based on the political mood which supports an elected MP as prime minister.

The Samakkhi Tham leader said Chat Thai may be given the chance to nominate the prime minister if he "misses out". He also said it was possible for Samakkhi Tham to nominate another person in his place, but there is no guarantee that the other four parties would support that person.

Despite the drug trafficking allegations against him, Mr Narong said he would make drug suppression the second-most important issue on his agenda as prime minister after "bread and butter issues".

UPI meanwhile, quoting Western diplomatic sources, reported yesterday that the US was unlikely to release information on Mr Narong because it could still be used as the basis for an indictment on narcotics conspiracy charges.

"The information on Narong may not be actionable at the present time, but it is the kind of information that can be used in seeking an indictment," UPI quoted one diplomat as saying.

The diplomat said the information dated back several years and showed "a clear pattern of indirect involvement" in narcotics trafficking. He declined to provide details.

"A court case is still an option," UPI quoted the diplomat as saying.

The diplomat told UPI the decision not to make the information public was taken to avoid Washington becoming further enmeshed in Thai politics as well as to preserve the possibility that the information could be used to indict Mr Narong.

The source said Mr Narong had been informed in writing that his visa had been denied last July. He met with then US ambassador Daniel O'Donohue to declare his innocence and appeal against the rejection.

The appeal was rejected after consultation with Washington.

Mr Narong last night admitted meeting Ambassador O'Donohue together with former foreign minister Dr Athit Urairat.

But he said the ambassador did not give him any reason for the visa being revoked.

He quoted Mr O'Donohue as saying it was not an embassy decision but came from Washington.

UPI quoted the sources as saying Mr Narong had hired influential lobbyists in Washington to try to discover what evidence the US Government had against him.

But last night he said he did not think, nor was concerned, about the US decision.

He also said the US had never informed him of its decision.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE quoted sources as saying the US secret dossier on Mr Narong also implicated other public figures.

The sources said the file, which spans several decades, linked high-ranking military figures and former senior government officials with the drug trade.

AFP quoted analysts as saying the information compiled by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was "political dynamite."

"The Thais have taken the risk of opening a can of worms that they really do not want open," AFP quoted one Asian diplomat. "Obiously Narong is not the only name in the file."

Official US reports have repeatedly pointed out that while Thai government authorities have been active in combatting the drug trade, certain officials have been involved in trafficking.

"We're talking about a multi-million-dollar business. There is clearly more than one person at the top. The US administration has to tread carefully. It wants to avoid creating a crisis between the two countries," one analyst told AFP.

Burden of Proof on Narong

BK0204014792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Apr 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Becoming PM Will Not End Suspicion about Narong"]

[Text] Samakkhi Tham party leader Narong Wongwan has landed himself in a no-win situation. If he bows out and declines the nomination for the premiership, then the public wil jump to the conclusion that the United States suspicions about his involvement in drug trafficking are probably true. But if he hangs tough and presses for the appointment—as he and his five-party coalition apparently intend to do—then he is gambling his entire political career and the future of his coalition on how the US and the rest of the world community will respond.

But before looking into the future, let's clear up a few points right now, so that Narong's case is seen in the proper perspective.

First of all the US government's suspicions existed long before Narong was chosen by his coalition for the premiership. His visa application to the US last July was rejected, since American authorities had "credible reports" from "different sources", though all based on circumstantial evidence, to suspect Narong of involvement in international drug trafficking.

This circumstantial evidence included the arrest in June 1987 of Arun Chongsutthanamani, a business tycoon from Chiang Rai province. Arun is the elder brother of Mongkon Chongsutthanamani, a close aide to Narong and Narong's secretary when the politician was agriculture minister during the last two months of the Chatchai administration. Arun was convicted on drug charges, sentenced to death, and is now in detention pending an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Pol Gen Chaowalit Yotmani, secretary-general of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board [ONCB], yesterday volunteered some more circumstantial evidence. He said he could not rule out the possibility that some of Narong's men, especially community leaders and village heads who have worked as vote canvassers for him, might have been dealing in narcotics and using Narong's plantations in the North for drug transactions. Earlier, Chawalit had denied the ONCB had any information that could back up suspicions against Narong.

Chawalit changed his tune only after Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun contradicted him by stating that Thailand and the US had similar information on Narong's case but had interpreted and used the information differently. US authorities privately maintain that their Thai counterparts knew as much as they did. But they would rather let the Thais comment on this case first and see whether anything happens.

Another point that must be reiterated—and the Thai Foreign Ministry has rightly included this in a statement—is that this is a personal dispute between Narong and the US. The US has some strong reservations about Narong's background, but not about Thailand or the Thai democratic system. It was pure demagoguery on Narong's part when he portrayed the US suspicions as intervention in Thailand's internal affairs and mobilized supporters from the North to stage a demonstration in front of the US Embassy.

Most importantly, Narong will not be automatically cleared of all the suspicions if he is appointed to the premiership. Neither can the appointment be taken as ultimate endorsement of Narong's integrity by the Thai nation.

The suspicions will remain because of the circumstantial evidence. Wherever Narong goes, journalists will pester him with the same questions about the US suspicions. Other government leaders will have a hard time deciding whether to invite him for an official visit or come to see him in Thailand.

So long as Narong's name remains on the US Immigration's Automatic Visa Lookout System, he is unlikely to get a visa to enter the US. An official visit to Washington, which Thai government leaders customarily make at least once while in power, will be impossible for Narong. And no US leaders and officials will come to Bangkok either.

In fact, US Ambassador David Lambertson, who has met most of the leaders of the other major parties, has avoided meeting Narong because of the US suspicions. Given such a standoff, the prospects of improving Thai-US relations, already strained by trade disputes, are very poor.

Moreover, the US Congress will probably jump at the first opportunity to hold a public hearing on Narong's case and summon senior officials of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to testify and make public DEA files on Narong and Thailand's role in international heroin trafficking.

The DEA cannot unilaterally disclose its information on Narong's case in public but it can do so with impunity when it is compelled to testify in front of Congress. Additional information in this case will certainly help the Thai public and the world community judge Narong more objectively.

Meanwhile, Narong must not act under the delusion that he is "defending democracy" for Thailand. Democracy cannot be defended by Narong anyway, as his party and allies are so subservient to the military that they were prepared to endorse any top brass as the next premier.

The future and sanctity of Thai democracy is not at issue here. Narong's political future is. But it is too late now for Narong to back down and receive the benefit of the doubt. And as he insists on becoming the next Thai prime minister, the burden of proof of innocence is on Narong himself.

King's Address Opening National Assembly

BK0204095192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0845 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Address by King Phumiphon Adunyadet at ceremony opening National Assembly session at Ananta Samakhom Hall—live]

[Text] Whereas the election of the House of Representatives has been completed and the meeting of the National Assembly of 1992 called in accordance with the Constitution, I declare open from this moment the meeting of the National Assembly so that it can carry out its legislative duties.

I ask that the members of this assembly keep in mind the great importance and responsibilities in exercising their duties because any action of any assembly member will directly affect national security and the happiness or plight of the people. Therefore, it is necessary for each member to cooperate and unite to carry out all missions to the extent of his intelligence and ability with honesty, thorough thinking, resoluteness, and rationality based on legal and moral principles so the work of the nation will progress unimpeded and achieve desired, complete beneficial results in all fields.

May the operations of the National Assembly be smooth and successful, creating happiness and progress for the people and the country. May every one of you who gather here always meet with happiness and advancement.

National Assembly To Convene 1st Session 2 Apr

BK2703141892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Royal Decree summoning the National Assembly into the first session for Year 2535 of the Buddist Era]

[Text] His Royal Signature: King Phumiphon Adunyadet, P.R, granted on 27 March 1992, the 47th year of the present reign.

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet graciously decrees the following announcement:

Since the general elections to the House of Representatives were held on 22 March 1992 and with reference to Article 127 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand which calls for members of the National Assembly to convene the first session within 30 days after the general elections to the House of Representatives are held, relying on Article 129 and Article 175 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Majesty the King has issued a royal decree to call the National Assembly into session on 2 April 1992.

Countersigned by Anan Panyarachun, prime minister.

Vietnam

Hanoi Stresses 'Goodwill' on Solving MIA Issue

BK3003113692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The representative of the Vietnam Office for Searching Missing Personnel has just turned over to the representative of the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center remains and personal effects of six American servicemen killed during the Vietnam War. Our radio contributes the following comment:

These remains of American soldiers were found during unilateral operation of Vietnam and U.S.-Vietnam joint searches. Since 1974, Vietnam has returned to the U.S. side 464 sets of remains on 36 occasions. Recently, Vietnam has mobilized 600,000 workdays on those unilateral and joint searches. The Vietnamese Government has allowed the U.S. team to have access to 40 provinces throughout the country.

Except for some discordant news regarding this matter, the U.S. side is, on the whole, pleased with Vietnam's efforts. James Collins, a member of the joint search team who fought in the Central Highlands during the war said: The U.S. highly appreciates documents and (?letters) provided by the Vietnamese side which have greatly facilitated the search. Major General Thomas Needham, who is in charge of the MIA issue said: Vietnam has showed its goodwill in solving the MIA issue and wants to cooperate closely with the U.S. in this problem.

Obviously, Vietnam is resolving the MIA issue positively without attaching it to any political conditions.

SRV, U.S. MIA Experts Meet

BK3103161492 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—Vietnamese and American MIA experts met here on March 30 to discuss measures to accelerate the settlement of the issue of American servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam war. This was made in accordance with the agreement reached at the early March 1992 meeting between Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon.

The Vietnamese and American experts evaluated the results of the 16th joint search and worked out a plan for the 17th joint search. The U.S. side highly appreciated Vietnam's cooperation in the recent past, especially the collection and return of remains, the timely investigation of some reported sighting of live Americans missing in action, and its creation of favorable conditions for the activities of the American MIA office in Hanoi. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cooperation and yielded positive results. The American experts will leave here tomorrow.

U.S. Official 'Heartened'

BK0204105492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] A senior U.S. State Department official said on Tuesday that the United States and Vietnam had reached a new level of understanding on humanitarian cooperation, especially on accounting for Americans taken prisoner or missing in the Vietnam war.

Reporting to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a trip in early March to Vietnam, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said: We are heartened by the kinds of agreements and the tone of our discussions with the Vietnamese authorities during my visit to Hanoi. We reached an important new level of understanding on how both sides can improve our humanitarian cooperation. Richard Solomon also stated that maybe the United States will restore normal relations with Vietnam in two years' time.

Council of Ministers' Directive Opens Border

BK0204022092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] On 27 March, the chairman of the Council of Ministers issued a directive on the opening of border gates along the Sino-Vietnam border. The directive states:

The Vietnamese and Chinese Governments agreed to open 21 border gates on land along the Sino-Vietnam border. These gates will be opened gradually when all necessary conditions are met. The actutal timing and procedure of the opening of the gates will be decided upon by the two governments through diplomatic channels. Initially, the preparatory work should be done urgently for the early opening of seven border gates: Huu Nghi, Dong Dang, Duong Sat, Mong Cai, Ta Lung, Lao Cai, Thanh Thuy, and Ma Nu Thay. [as heard]

After the border gates are open, Vietnamese and Chinese citizens with valid entry and exit visas to cross the border, barter goods for residents living in the border areas, and small volume border trading goods will be allowed to pass through the 21 border gates. Vietnamese and Chinese citizens with valid visas will be allowed entry to and transit via the two countries and their trading commodities will be allowed to pass through the seven border gates at Huu Nghi, Dong Dang, Duong Sat, Mong Cai, Ta Lung, Lao Cai, Thanh Thuy, and Ma Nu Thay. [as heard]

Those who carry passports from a third country with entry and exit visas or transit visas and their trading commodities will be allowed to pass through only four border gates at Huu Nghi, Dong Dang, Duong Sat, Mong Cai, and Lao Cai. [as heard]

Lang Son Friendship Border Gate Reopened

BK0104155192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] As both our government and the Chinese Government have agreed and according to a temporary accord to settle jobs in the Sino-Vietnamese border area, on 1 April, the provincial people's committee held a solemn ceremony to officially reopen the friendship border gate at the friendship border outpost in Lang Son.

Representatives of various sectors in the province and ministries and sectors of central government and delegates of the people of all nationalities in Lang Son Province attended the ceremony.

The delegation from the Chuan Autonomous Region Administration in Guangxi Province was also present to share in the joy of the Vietnamese and Chinese people. Addressing the ceremony, Comrade Tran Ngat, deputy chairman of Lang Son provincial people's committee said: The reopening of the Friendship gate marks a new step in the expansion of bilateral relations which correspond to the aspirations and vital interests of the people of all nationalities in Lang Son and Guangxi in particular, and of the peoples of Vietnam and China in general. At the same time, he charged the Friendship border outpost with the task of coordinating with the Guangxi border outpost so as to supervise the border gate and positively contribute to building a Sino-Vietnamese border line of peace and friendship for the sake of construction and development in each country and the fine traditions of friendship of the two peoples.

Amidst resounding music and fire-crackers, Comrade Tran Ngat solemnly declared the official reopening of the Friendship gate in Lang Son linking the Friendship Bridge between the Vietanamese and Chinese peoples.

On the same day, at the Friendship gate in Guangxi Province, the administration of the Autonomous Chuan Region also held a ceremony to reopen the border gate.

Following the official ceremony, the delegations of both sides cordially met each other and crossed the border to visit the Lang Son and Guangxi border gates.

Attending the official ceremonies at the Friendship gates on both sides were numerous Vietnamese and Chinese journalists and other foreign journalists working in Vietnam and China.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1315 GMT on 1 Apr in a similar report adds:]

["Despite the warm words, the lingering dispute over demarcation of the Sino-Vietnamese boder was evident from the placement of the Vietnamese customs post, 480 meters (500 yards) from the south side of the Friendship Gate where it stood until 1979."]

["'The border is still under negotiation,' a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official said.]

Radio Notes Growth of Trade at PRC Border

BK0104055392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Vietnam and China will officially open their border gate on Wednesday. In fact, cross-border trade between the two countries has been developing for several years and even more booming recently.

The border line between Vietnam and China will be officially reopened by the two governments after 12 years of interruption. Prior to 1979, when bilateral relations were normal, the border line was called the border of Sino-Vietnamese friendship. After 1979, when relations between the two countries were not normal, the common border line became a hotbed of tension and gunshots were often heard there. This affected border trade between the two countries.

Recently the relations between the two countries have been improved and normalized. The reopening of the border line shows the quick step of implementation of the agreements on railway, aviation, posts and sea routes signed between Vietnamese Minister of Communications, Transport and Post Bui Danh Luu with China early this month. This event will favor cross-border trade.

So far some 25 trading centers have been set up along the Sino-Vietnamese border. In Quang Ninh along, cross-border trade turnover has increased from $12 million in 1990 to $300 million in 1991. Meanwhile, air links between the two countries are expected to be reopened next month. This event will surely contribute to the process of quick normalization of bilateral relations.

Joint Venture in Ocean Shipping Begins

BK0104075792 Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—The Baikal Ocean Shipping Company has started operation under a license of the Vietnam State Committee for Cooperation and Investment.

The company, in a joint venture between the Pha Rung Shipyard and the Saigon Container Company of Vietnam, and the Ocean Shipping Corporation and the Production and Trading Company in the Far East of Russia, has a startup capital of five million US dollars.

The Vietnamese side contributed two million US dollars in repairing the Baikal passenger ship and two cargo ships. The Russian contribution of three million US dollars consisted of the Baikal passenger ship, two cargo ships, equipment, and spare parts.

The Baikal Ocean Shipping Company plans to ship passengers and cargo between Vietnam and Russia, other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Asia-Pacific countries.

At present the Baikal passenger ship and a tonne cargo ship contributed by the Russian side are under repair at the Pha Rung Shipyard in Northern Vietnam.

Kiet Meets Malaysian Minister of Transport

BK0104161292 Hanoi VNA in English 1534 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon Dr. Ling Liong Sik, minister of transport, and members of a delegation of the Malaysian Transport Ministry, who had came on a visit to Vietnam to sign a maritime navigation agreement between the two countries.

Also present were Bui Danh Luu, Vietnamese minister of communications, transport and posts, and the Malaysian ambassador to Vietnam.

Minister Ling Liong Sik conveyed to Chairman Vo Van Kiet the regards of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, and expressed his hope that the coming visit to Vietnam by the Malaysian prime minister would be an important contribution to the consolidation and strengthening of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia.

He expressed his belief that with the just concluded maritime navigation agreement, the relations in commerce, investment, and tourism between the two countries would be promoted in conformity with the aspiration of the two peoples for peace, friendship, cooperation, and development in the region.

For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed the first visit of the Malaysian minister to Vietnam as a new development in the Vietnamese-Malaysian cooperation.

He highly valued Malaysia's experience in national construction in general, and in communications and transport in particular, and said he hoped that the Vietnamese-Malaysian cooperation would be made a good example for the relations of cooperation among neighbouring countries.

He said that with the opening of air links and waterways between the two countries, the Vietnam-Malaysia relations would be comprehensively and effectively developed, not only for the interests of each country, but also for regional cooperation and development.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Philippine Minister

BK3103152492 Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet today warmly received Mr. S. Bacani, minister of agriculture of the Philippines, who is now visiting Vietnam and inquiring into the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of the agreement reached between the chairman and President Corazon Aquino last February in Manila.

Minister of Agriculture Nguyen Cong Tan and Philippine Ambassador L. Baccay were present at the reception. Minister Bacani conveyed President Aquino's regards to Chairman Vo Van Kiet and her appreciation of the new development of the Philippine-Vietnamese relations since Chairman Vo Van Kiet's visit to the Philippines. He told the vietnamese leader of the Philippines's projects of cooperation with Vietnam on the production, processing, and consumption of marine and agricultural products. He said that the Philippines is ready to help and cooperate with Vietnam in many fields, including the training of agricultural cadres.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet hailed the initial agreement reached between Minister Bacani and Minister Nguyen Cong Tan on the possibility of bilateral cooperation in the transfer of agricultural technology, and production and processing of poultry and vegetables. He also expressed his wish that Vietnam and the Philippines would develop all-sided cooperation and help each other.

Commentary Views Increasing Tension in Mideast

BK0104063592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] A united Nations mission has supervised Iraq's elimination of a great number of Scud missiles and its destruction of nine kinds of equipment for manufacturing and repairing long-range missiles. The mission has also made a fact-finding tour of six places where Iraq buried the destroyed missiles. Iraq has also dismantled nine arms manufacturing establishemnts in southern and western Baghdad. Besides, Iraq agreed to destroy facilities and missile production and repair establishments which were formerly intended to be used for civilian purposes.

It is to recall that after the end of the Gulf War the United Nations has issued many resolutions asking Iraq to destroy its arms arsenal. Iraq, for its part, has on many occasions declared that it has and will implement those resolutions and allow UN missions to enter the country for investigation into arms production establishments and provide information on chemical, nuclear, biological weapons, and strategic missiles in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Reports from Iraq say Iraq will destroy all kinds of weapons in the nuclear program and is ready to announce all its arms programs to the ad hoc committee of the United Nations.

But, of late the United States continues threatening to attack Iraq. Especially when the primary elections started in the United States preparations for the attacks against Iraq became even more hectic. Despite a force of 25,000 and 25 warships left after the Gulf War, the United States has dispatched another 80 combat aircraft and many warships and the aircraft carrier "America" to the Gulf, increasing its troop strength to some 27,000. The NEW YORK TIMES disclosed that the Pentagon has handed over to the U.S. President a plan to use force to attack Iraq once again. Those military activities by the U.S. have strained the situation in the Gulf region. Public opinion is worried about the danger of the outbreak of the war there.

Khmer Rouge Obstruction to Repatriation Noted

BK3003053192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] On 24 March, Mr Kibria, a high-ranking UN official in Bangkok criticized the Khieu Samphan faction for holding UN authorities [word indistinct] and for hindering refugees from K Camp along the Thai-Cambodia border from returning home.

Mr Kibria announced that the head of the camp and his assistants were arrested by Khieu Samphan agents because of their close contacts with the UN officials. This detention caused great anxiety to the 10,000 refugees in K Camp, one of the three camps under Khieu Samphan's control. This is a gross violation of the repatriation program of Cambodian refugees scheduled for early next week. Moreover, in recent days the Khmer Rouge have intensified their military operations in central Cambodia, especially in Kompong Thom Province, violating the truce.

AFP reported that the Khmer Rouge on 24 March pounded artillery shells onto the province, attempting to derail the peacekeeping actions undertaken by the United Nations.

Commentary on Repatriation Program

BK0104060692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The UN-sponsored program of repatriating Cambodian refugees began on Monday, yet it met with obstacles posed by the Khieu Samphan faction even before it was carried out. Last weekend they arrested two chiefs of Site K for what they called their contact with the UN. This move by the Khieu Samphan faction has caused anxiety to 10,000 refugees in this camp. What is more, the Khmer Rouge has just attacked Camp No. 8, killing two persons.

Apart from this, the Khmer Rouge have continued many military actions in Kompong Thom Province in southern Cambodia. On Sunday they damaged two bridges in this area, making the already fragile peace in Cambodia all the more fragile. These moves by the Khmer Rouge, according to the 26 March issue of THE NEW YORK TIMES are aimed at gaining a footage in the forthcoming general elections in Cambodia.

At the same time, they are going out of their way to hamper the UN program of repatriation to force the refugees into their controlled territory in Cambodia to compel the latter to vote for them in the elections next year. As defined by the Paris peace accord on Cambodia, refugees are free to choose their settlement, but the Khmer Rouge are intentionally turning a deaf ear to this article. The public urges the Khmer Rouge to end immediately their move, to bring about peace to Cambodia, and insure that the UN program for repatriation of Cambodian refugees be carried out in a safe and humanitarian manner.

Radio Commentary on Relations With Thailand

BK3003052592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Mr Narong Wongwan has just been nominated as Prime Minister of Thailand. Addressing a press conference in Bangkok on Thursday, Mr Narong promised to try his best to fulfill his mission. Former Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun expressed the hope that the new government would continue Thailand's policy of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam and other neighboring countries.

Vietnam and Thailand are two nations in Southeast Asia with an age-old relationship. During the last decade, because of the Cambodian issue, their bilateral relationship had its ups and downs. Presently the bilateral ties have improved notably. In the past three years Thailand has twice changed its prime ministers. However, the prime ministers all shared the desire to consolidate and develop Thailand's relations with Vietnam. The policy of the newly-nominated prime minister, Mr Narong Wongwan, to continue to cooperate with Vietnam conforms to the wishes of his forerunners.

Addressing a reception given for Vietnamese Vice Premier Phan Van Khai in Bangkok on Monday, Mr Anan Panyarachun stated that the new government in Thailand would follow the policy of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam and its other neighbors. He said the economic ties between the two countries have not reached their potential.

Vietnam, for its part, is trying to create favorable conditions for Thailand to do business with Vietnam. Vietnam hopes that the new government in Thailand will cooperate with Vietnam in various fields so that the bilateral relationship is strong and productive.

Draft Constitution Debate Closes

BK0104075992 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1st—deputies to the National Assembly on Tuesday morning wound up debate on the last part of the draft of the revised 1980 Constitution-Chapter X on People's Courts and People's Inspectorates, Chapter XI on The National Flag, National Anthem, National Emblem and National Capital, an Chapter XII on The Effect and Revision of the Constitution.

In the afternoon, they heard Finance Minister Hoang Quy on the proposed budget for the 1992 fiscal year; Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Tran Dinh Hoan on wage reforms followed by supplementary reports from the Economy, Planning and Budget Commission and the Public Health and Social Affairs Commission; Construction Minister Ngo Xuan Loc on measures to deal with the unprincipled sales of public estates in Ho Chi Minh City; and Minister Pham Ngoc Tuong in charge of personnel on problems arising from recent redelineation of administrative boundaries in a number of provinces and districts.

On the agenda today is group discussion of the projected laws on National Assembly organisation and elections and of the proposed budget.

Do Muoi, Vu Oanh Attend Motivation Congress

BK0104100192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] From 16 to 18 March, the party organization of the central bloc of mass motivation organs held its 3d second-round congress. Comrade Nguyen Tam Ngo, secretary of the bloc party committee, read a report on the implementation of the 2d party organization congress resolution, the situation in the party organization, and the party development task presently. It also assessed the party organization and its members and pointed out the political guidelines and tasks of the party organization for 1991-95.

The report stressed that the aim of the mass motivation task for the coming five years is to improve the network of renovated mass organizations. This will conform with the multisectorial economy of commodities and the socialist line in order to meet the vital interests of the masses, ensure political leadership of the party, unite all the people and accomplish the tasks of enriching the people and strengthening the country.

The congress focused on the general tasks of the party organization for 1991-95. These are to develop the intellectual ability of all members in the party organization, jointly renovate the organization and operation of the front and mass organizations, participate in formulating the contents of various congresses of mass organizations and party policies toward the various classes and strata of people, ensure that mass organizations are truly voluntary organizations of the people and are effective in meeting their interests; resolutely oppose bureaucratism and red tape which alienate the people and realities; and contribute to organizing and mobilizing the people of all strata to enthusiastically participate in the renovation.

The congress elected a new executive committee of 15 members. During the congress, Comrade Do Muoi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam; and Comrade Vu Oanh, Political Bureau Member, attended and addressed the congress.

Vo Van Kiet Holds Working Session in HCMC

BK2303042992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] In Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC] on 10-11 March, Comrades Vo Van Kiet and Phan Van Khai, respectively chairman and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and representatives of ministries and sectors at the central level, held working sessions with the Ho Chi Minh City party and people committees. The session discussed the city's general plan, its orientations and tasks for the five-year period, and socioeconomic plan for 1992.

The city people's committee delivered a report on the city's general plan up to the year 2000. The report said that development of Ho Chi Minh City is in close association with the perfection of economic structure of the Mekong River Delta provinces, including Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, and Vung Tau. As a result, efforts must be made to renovate the city and adjacent cities economically, socially, and architecturally. The plan specified new strategic and concrete projects to develop the city, including those on housing, communications, electricity, and water works. The plan also asserted the necessity to improve the city's economic structure, especially in the industrial, trade, and service domains. In 1992, the city must strive to increase its gross industrial production output by 10 percent, agricultural production output by five percent, social output by nine percent, and national income by 7.5 percent as compared to 1991. It must also strive to attain an export value of $550 million with an average growth in export-import by 18-21 percent, and must provide jobs for 100,000 workers.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Vice Chairman Phan Van Khai delivered speeches at the session, saying that the Council of Ministers has accepted the general plan and the five-year plan presented by the city and hailing its efforts for formulating these plans in a concrete and scientific fashion.

Comrades Vo Van Kiet and Phan Van Khai urged that Ho Chi Minh City, a leading city of the country in many aspects, should be careful in formulating socioeconomic development programs to avoid adverse consequences. Experiences drawn by many countries in the world show that in expanding big cities and allowing quick increase of the population, acute and unsolvable issues will emerge. As a result, Ho Chi Minh City should reduce further its population growth rate, build scattered trade centers, and pay special attention to eliminating pollution, protecting the environment, preserving traditional culture, and building infrastructure suiting the conditions of the city, especially in the communications and transportation domains.

Dao Duy Tung Attends Hoa Binh Party Congress

BK2503040092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Hoa Binh Province held its 11th second-round party congress 18-20 March to review the implementation of political, economic, and social tasks in the last five years and outline the 1992-1995 tasks. Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the Political Bureau and standing secretary of the party Secretariat; Pham The Duyet, member of the Political Bureau; and many party high-ranking comrades attended and spoke at the congress.

The congress agreed that in the last five years, the province has satisfactorily applied party's lines and policies to the local situation. The people of different ethnic backgrounds have striven to overcome difficulties by mutual assistance and by increasing production. In agriculture, there have been improvements in farming, water management, the planting of new rice strains, the cultivation of summer-spring rice crop, and the planting of fruit trees, thus leading to the strong development of agricultural production. Foreign aid, government investment, and the contractual system to households have helped accelerate afforestation. Nearly 30,800 hectares of forest have been planted in the province, three times the figure compared to five years ago. Forest protection work has also been carried out satisfactorily. Many households have built their own forest gardens and farms and have been successful in agriculture and forest production. Some families earn 10 to 20 million dong a year from tea and sugarcane cultivation, a few even earn from 50 to 100 million dong.

However, rice planting is not the province's major crop and the level of extensive farming is still weak, leading to low levels of rice production and productivity. The best

year, 1989, only produced 135,000 tonnes of rice. It is worth mentioning that while food production is decreasing, the population has increased nearly 3 percent, causing more difficulties in peasants' life.

Industrial and handicraft production has increased nearly 40 percent, compared to five years ago. However, the province's annual budget still suffers great imbalances. Total tax collection only covers 87 percent of local regular expenditure. The loss of industrial, commercial, and agricultural tax, slaughter tax, and industrial tree production tax is high. This is one of the difficulties obstructing the construction of the infrastructure and other activities in the province.

The social and cultural life of the local ethnic community has not improved a lot. The province still has 20 percent of families living below the poverty line. The illiterate, school dropouts, and the problems of malaria, gout, and drug addiction are still widespread.

The 11th Hoa Binh second-round congress, while outling the tasks for its 1992-1995 term, defined the province's fundamental advantages and difficulties, especially when Hoa Binh is a mountainous and recently-established province with poor material bases and a limited level of extensive farming. However, the Hoa Binh party committee and people are determined to get rich gradually and to build a strong province by accelerating the development of the family economy and increasing commodity and export production. They are striving to bring poor families above the poverty line by the year 2000, and by 1995, providing 75 percent of families with better housing, 30 percent of villages and towns with electricity, and 90 percent of families with radios and eradicating 95 percent of illiteracy.

The congress elected a new party committee consisting of 39 members. Comrade Nguyen Nhieu Coc, member of the party Central Committee, was elected secretary of the Hoa Binh Party Committee.

General Inspects Military Regions' Work

BK2303152592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] In southern Vietnam, Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and the Military Commission of the party Central Committee cum head of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] General Political Department, recently led a delegation of this department to visit the 7th and 9th military regions and the Cuu Long Army Corps to inspect party building and political tasks.

In his working session with these units, Gen. Le Kha Phieu asserted that the VPA must strive to satisfactorily and extensively carry out the mass mobilization work to suit the present situation, contribute to stabilizing the political situation, and firmly maintain security, thereby helping to ensure a peaceful life for the people and create a firm base for building and consolidating national security and defense. Units must formulate appropriate and effective measures, based on the unique conditions of their localities, to carry out their tasks. Particularly, they must train and educate cadres and combatants to help them clearly understand and firmly grasp the party and state lines and policies on ethnic minorities and respect for religious groups, thereby helping to strengthen unity between the Army and the people.

He said that these tasks will serve as a base for building a firm, strong all-people national defense in the new situation.

Mekong Delta Smugglers, Criminals Face Crackdown

BK2403060392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Report by Do Toan and Son Hai of the Ministry of Interior, on police crackdown on "law breakers and economic offenders in various provinces in the Mekong River Delta"]

[Summary] "To continue implementing Directive No. 135-HDBT as well as a Ministry of Interior message providing guidance for implementation of this directive, the People's Police General Department has launched a crackdown on criminals operating along vrious riverine routes in the Mekong River Delta."

In accordance with guidelines from the People's Police General Department, the Traffic and Public Order Maintenance Police Department has drawn up a plan to coordinate activities between various provinces and cities. This crackdown has been targeted at armed robbers, purse snatchers, rascals who are preying on waterway commuters; and criminals on the wanted list, smugglers, and tax evaders.

"After one month of carrying out the crackdown, 718 criminals have been nabbed, including 41 who are on the wanted list, 34 escapees from correctional detention centers, 223 thieves, another 223 big-time gamblers, 20 arrested for having obstructed officers from performing their duties, 18 swindlers, five arrested for seizing other people's private assets by force, and 54 prostitutes. Seven gangs of armed robbers have also been smashed and 15 of their members have been detained."

Taking advantage of those loopholes in our border control, smugglers have increased their operations in a more crafty fashion. Smugglers have hidden their contraband goods in boats with false bottoms. "That is why large quantities of illegally-imported and tax-evading goods from Cambodia are continuing to pour daily into various southern provinces and Ho Chi Minh City." From there, these smuggled goods are reported to have been sent to central and northern provinces by train and air.

After only a short period of time, "120 cases of smuggling and tax evasion involving 110 persons have been discovered, resulting in the seizure of large quantities of gold, dollars, antiques, foreign-brand cigarettes, TNT

explosive, imitation insecticide, diesel oil, television sets, video cassette recorders, western medicine, and so forth. Some 36 boats and junks involved in ferrying the contraband have also been seized."

Worthy of note is that through the crackdown, we have been able to intensify the mass movement for safeguarding national security in the Mekong River Delta. "The masses have provided security police with many tips and have helped them discover many law and economic offenders, thus rendering the crackdown more efficient. By combining the mass movement for safeguarding national security with the operations of marine police and other professional forces, we have created a deterrent to various kinds of criminals. In the recent crackdown, two dangerous persons were reported to have surrendered themselves to the administration."

The situation regarding riverine traffic in the Mekong River Delta has also posed many problems. The width of many rivers in this area is becoming narrower because of growing alluvial soil deposits on river banks and also because of increasing occupation of river banks by local people whose houses have been built jutting toward the water. Responsible organs have tried hard to solve this situation but to no avail.

"The aforementioned situation shows that the tasks of maintaining traffic order and safety and discovering and fighting crimes along various communications axes in general and along riverine routes in particular are now very urgent. Marine police can in no way do this job alone, which requires joint efforts from various echelons and sectors."

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